

MLB: Cubs skipper learns to manage millennials [Back page](#)

TV: Patty Jenkins' gritty LA miniseries [Page 39](#)

MOVIES: Early contenders for the 2020 Oscars [Page 36](#)

EUROPE & PACIFIC WEEKEND EDITION

MUSIC
Gary Clark Jr.'s bold new album shows he's more than a bluesman
[Page 24](#)

STARS AND STRIPES®

[stripes.com](#)

Volume 77, No. 226 ©SS 2019

FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 2019

平成32年4月5日 第三種郵便物認可 日刊(土日除く)
発行所 星島新聞社 〒106-0032 東京都港区六本木7丁目23番17号 定価 ¥100

\$1.00



EVAN VUCCI/AP

President Donald Trump meets with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un on Thursday in Hanoi, Vietnam.

Trump, Kim end high-stakes summit without nuclear agreement

By **KIM GAMEL**
Stars and Stripes

HANOI, Vietnam — President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un failed to reach an agreement on nuclear weapons Thursday, with Trump saying he had to “walk away” from a demand to

lift economic sanctions in exchange for denuclearization.

However, in a move that was sure to be pleasing to the North Koreans, the president indicated he had no plans to resume full-scale joint war games with the South because they’re “very expensive.”

The surprise ending to the summit,

which started Wednesday with high hopes, came after the leaders engaged in two days of talks in the Vietnamese capital amid pressure to draft a road map eight months after they first met in Singapore.

“It was a very productive two days,” Trump said at a press conference after

SEE SUMMIT ON PAGE 4

ANALYSIS

North Korean leader tries to transform image into international statesman

Page 5

Soldier's graphic novel to become Netflix movie starring Peter Dinklage

By **MARTIN EGNASH**
Stars and Stripes

A gritty future where nobody in the U.S. is able to have children after a biological terrorist attack will soon be brought to life as a Netflix original movie starring “Game of Thrones” star Peter Dinklage — all from the imagination of an Army sergeant.

The movie is based on the post-apocalyptic graphic novel “The Last Sons of America,” which Sgt. 1st Class Phillip Kennedy Johnson wrote while serving as a trumpet player with the Washington-based U.S. Army Field Band. The adaptation will be produced by Matt Reeves, writer and director of the upcoming Warner Bros. film “The Batman.” Netflix announced last month,

“I haven’t had time to really process every-

thing yet, but I’m really excited,” said Johnson, who has served 13 years in the Army.

Johnson’s graphic novel, with the art of Washington-based comic book artist Matthew Dow Smith, was published as a four-book series in 2015 and was released as a compendium in January 2017.

SEE NETFLIX ON PAGE 7



Courtesy of
Simon &
Schuster

MILITARY

Congress attacks plan to take military funds for wall

By CLAUDIA GRISALES
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Several members of a House panel blasted a top military official during a contentious hearing Wednesday over President Donald Trump's plan to shift \$6.1 billion in Pentagon money to build a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border.

"What we are witnessing is a president who poses a direct threat to both our military families and America's national security," said Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz, D-Fla., chairwoman of the House Appropriations subpanel on military construction and other related issues. "This declaration undermines U.S. national security and the needs of our men and women in uniform."

Trump declared a national emergency on Feb. 15 as part of an effort to move \$3.6 billion from military construction projects and another \$2.5 billion from a drug interdiction account to fund construction of a southern border wall.

Wasserman Schultz argued that with border crossings at historic lows and illegal drugs largely moving through legal ports of entry, there is no crisis on the border.

Yet, Pentagon officials are now scrambling to shift the \$6.1 billion from the Pentagon's current fiscal year budget to wall construction in the face of growing political challenges.

On Tuesday, the Democratic-controlled House approved

a resolution by Rep. Joaquin Castro, D-Texas, to terminate Trump's emergency declaration. Thirteen Republicans broke ranks to support the move.

Earlier that day, the top general for U.S. Northern Command said there was no military threat on the southern border and the command's drug interdiction funds shouldn't be diverted to help build a wall.

Robert McMahon, assistant defense secretary for sustainment, told the House subpanel on Wednesday that it's too early to identify which military projects could be canceled this fiscal year in lieu of the wall. However, he said the Pentagon plans not to touch funding reserved for military housing, which has come under fire in recent months for extensive deficiencies across the country.

"We are not that far along yet," McMahon said.

He said the Trump administration is considering a plan to use \$1.3 billion allocated for border security in fiscal year 2018 and another \$1.375 billion in 2019 for the wall. Then, Pentagon leaders will move to the new funding plans directed by Trump's national emergency.

However, several lawmakers raised concerns that Trump will continue efforts to siphon funds from the military for the wall. Trump has previously said he wanted as much as \$25 billion for the wall plan.

Under questioning during Wednesday's hearing, McMahon

said he couldn't guarantee he wouldn't be back before the panel next year for the same national emergency.

"So, what the hell are we here for?" Rep. Tim Ryan, D-Ohio, asked. "I don't think anybody in this town is going to think that this president is going to stop with this particular circumstance. I don't think Democrats or Republicans — they may not say it in front of the microphone — but no one thinks he's going to stop here. And that's a problem."

Texas Rep. John Carter, ranking Republican for the House Appropriations subpanel, said he is supportive of Trump, though he did not approve of the plan to shift funds away from military construction.

"While I stand with the president on this important national security issue, I will not do so at the expense of the soldiers and families of Fort Hood," he said of the Army base in central Texas. "We must solve the crisis at the southern border but not at the expense of those who have bravely served."

Wasserman Schultz said Trump's claims there is an emergency on the border is a "fabrication" and a "boondoggle."

Using a national emergency declaration for the wall, "simply put, is stealing," she said.

Wasserman Schultz suggested the move could threaten military readiness especially as the Defense Department faces a backlog of \$116 billion in facility improvements. An estimated 32 percent



CARLOS BONGIOANNI/Stars and Stripes

Assistant Secretary of Defense for Sustainment Robert McMahon testifies during a hearing on Capitol Hill in Washington on Wednesday.

of military facilities are in poor or failing condition, she noted.

"Diverting appropriated funds that were provided to specific construction projects will affect military training readiness and quality of life for troops and their families," she said. "It proves that petty politics are being put ahead of readiness and the well-being of our troops and their families."

McMahon said no military construction projects have been canceled yet. However, officials will request funds taken for the wall to be restored in the Pentagon's fiscal year 2020 budget request.

"While some current military construction projects may be deferred, the fiscal year 2020 president's budget request will include a request for funds to replenish request for these projects," he said.

Wasserman Schultz called McMahon's claims "verbal gymnastics," and she said such a move to backfill funds was an attempt to

circumvent Congress.

"Mr. Secretary, you're fooling no one, really. I'm not sure what kind of chumps you think my colleagues and I are," she said. "You are taking money from vital projects that the military previously said were essential and spending that money on a wall and then asking for the money to be backfilled...when we already had that debate and the president's proposal was rejected."

On Monday, Reps. John Garamendi, D-Calif., and Doug Lamborn, R-Colo., the chairman and ranking member of a House Armed Services Committee subpanel, demanded in a letter to the White House that they release a list of affected military projects.

McMahon seemed to indicate Wednesday that it was unlikely they would comply.

"At this point in time, there is no list," he said.

grisales.claudia@stripes.com
Twitter: @cgrisales

TODAY IN STRIPES

American Roundup 18
Business 20
Comics, Crossword 42, 46-47
Facts 43
Opinion 44-45
Sports 54-64
Weather 20
Weekend 21-42

STARS AND STRIPES

However you read us,
wherever you need us.

Mobile • Online • Print

EUROPE

ADVERTISING

KRISTI KIMMEL

CustomerService@stripes.com

+49 (0) 0631.3615.9111
DSN: 315.583.9111

MIDDLE EAST

ADVERTISING

KRISTI KIMMEL

CustomerService@stripes.com

+49 (0) 0631.3615.9111
DSN: 315.583.9111

PACIFIC

ADVERTISING

ICHIRO
KATAYANAGI

CustomerHelp@Stripes.com

+81(3) 6385.3267 DSN 315.229.3267

PCSing? STARS AND STRIPES. RELOCATION GUIDE

Every Friday in the European and Pacific editions
of Stars and Stripes AND online daily at
www.stripes.com/relo



MILITARY

Transgender troops tout military service

By JULIE WATSON
Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Transgender troops testifying for the first time to Congress on Wednesday said transitioning to another sex made them stronger, while Pentagon officials defended the Trump administration's desire to bar people like them from enlisting in the future.

Army Capt. Alivia Stehlik, an infantry officer and graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., and Ranger School, told lawmakers she became a more "effective soldier" after she transitioned from male to female in 2017.

"What is the value of having transgender people in the military? Based on my experience first as a combat arms officer and medical provider, the answer is unequivocally that my transition — and so many others — has dramatically increased the readiness and lethality of every branch of the armed forces," said Stehlik, who returned from a deployment to Afghanistan a month ago where she treated soldiers as a physical therapist.

With the ban now blocked by lawsuits, active-duty transgender servicemembers were invited to testify at the hearing called by Democratic Rep. Jackie Speier, of California, chairwoman of the military personnel subcommittee of the House Armed Services Committee.

Speier said the ban is "discriminatory, unconstitutional and self-defeating" and said the Obama administration's 2016 lifting of the barrier to allow transgender people to serve has been an "unequivocal success."

She added that barring transgender people again "would cost us recruits at a time when so few Americans are willing to serve." She called the five transgender troops who testified Wednesday "exceptional, but also exceptionally normal."

Retired Air Force Gen. James N. Stewart, who is now performing the duties of the undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness, defended the Trump administration's policy, which is currently blocked by litigation.

He said current transgender troops will be allowed to continue to serve and other transgender people can join the military if they serve in their biological sex and have not been diagnosed with gender dysphoria, a condition under which people experience distress if they do not identify with their birth gender.

"It's not a ban on transgender individuals," he insisted.

Stewart added that "special accommodations" cannot be made for people with such a medical condition.

Maryland Democratic Rep. Anthony Brown said the same argument was used to keep blacks from integrating into the Army in 1948 and again in the 1990s to



CARLOS BONGIOANNI/Stars and Stripes

From left, Army Capt. Alivia Stehlik, Army Capt. Jennifer Peace, Army Staff Sgt. Patricia King and Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Akira Wyatt prepare to testify about military transgender service policy during a hearing in Washington on Wednesday.

keep gay people from serving openly under the "don't ask, don't tell" policy, which was repealed by Congress in 2010.

He said barring people who have undergone treatment for gender dysphoria and transitioned to another sex is equivalent to banning transgender people.

"You're transgender and only if you agree not to transition, then you can serve. That's just like 'don't ask, don't tell,'" he said.

In the nearly three years since the U.S. military welcomed transgender people into the armed forces, they have largely served without incident. Some, like Army attack helicopter pilot Lindsey Muller, have earned prestigious medals or received other forms of recognition.

"Once you meet transgender people who have served in the different branches ... it's really hard to dismiss the fact that you will find Purple Heart recipients, Bronze Star winners, attack aviators, Navy SEALs," said Muller, who did not testify but is a plaintiff in one of four lawsuits challenging the ban. "We've been here, and we will

continue to be here regardless. In what capacity is up to the administration."

President Donald Trump has argued that their presence is a burden and cited "tremendous medical costs" as a reason for the ban.

According to new data from the Defense Department provided to the House Armed Services Committee ahead of the hearing, the military has spent about \$8 million on transgender care since 2016. The military's annual health care budget tops \$50 billion.

An estimated 14,700 troops on active duty and in the Reserves identify as transgender but not all seek treatment.

Military chiefs testified before Congress last year that they found no problems with transgender troops on morale or unit cohesion. The five transgender troops who testified Wednesday said their medical transitions took anywhere from four weeks to four months and they did most of it on their own time. All were fit to return to deploying afterward.

They said recovery from pregnancy and

shoulder surgery takes much longer.

The Defense Department treated 1,525 servicemembers between July 1, 2016, and February 1, 2019, who were diagnosed with gender dysphoria. Currently about 1,071 are serving, including 20 senior officers.

The military spent about \$8 million on transgender care, including about \$5.8 million on psychotherapy and about \$2 million on surgeries mostly for breast reductions and hysterectomies. There were about 23,000 psychotherapy visits and about 160 surgeries.

Speier asked Pentagon officials to look into reports that the military requires weekly psychotherapy visits, over-prescribing therapy.

Mississippi Rep. Trent Kelly, the committee's ranking Republican member, said not everyone can join the military because of its "stringent medical and behavioral health standards needed to maintain a ready and resilient force. However, it only makes sense that any individual who can meet these standards and is otherwise qualified should be allowed to serve."

Russian defense chief calls Baltic buildup a response to NATO

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — Russia will add new tank and missile defense units to its Baltic fleet this year along with more modern weaponry for forces positioned in the vicinity of NATO turf, the country's defense minister said.

Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu told Russian state media on Wednesday the moves were a response to NATO's growing presence in and around the Baltics.

"We are forced to provide an adequate

response, carrying out strategic containment events with the plans of stepping up combat capabilities of military formations and units," said Shoigu, as quoted by the TASS news agency.

As part of a reorganization of its forces, Moscow wants to bolster its coastal defenses with a missile defense battalion, a tank regiment and two other army regiments, Shoigu said.

"The efficiency of providing cover for military and state facilities in the Baltic operational area will increase by 40 percent," he said.

The military also will implement 142 unspecified "organizational measures," he said.

The Russian military also is moving forward with the construction of new garrisons for recently formed units in Russia's Western Military District, home to the newly formed 3rd and 144th motor rifle divisions of the 20th Army.

The Russian defense chief described the efforts as a counter to NATO's enhanced military presence in the Baltics, where the alliance now has multinational battlegroups in all three Baltic states and Poland.

While Moscow routinely lashes out at NATO's moves along the alliance's eastern flank, allies say Russia's aggressive moves are to blame.

Before Russia's 2014 annexation of Ukraine's Crimea Peninsula, allies had minimal military presence in the Baltics and Poland. But Moscow's use of military force rattled member states and launched a push inside NATO to elevate its combat readiness.

vandiver.john@stripes.com
Twitter: john_vandiver

PACIFIC

Summit: Disputes continue as possibility of negotiations lingers

FROM FRONT PAGE

parting ways with Kim. "But sometimes you have to walk, and I think that this was one of those times."

Before leaving for Washington, Trump told reporters the main obstacle to a deal was North Korea's insistence that the United Nations lift all economic sanctions in return for closing only one nuclear facility.

However, North Korea's Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho told an impromptu, late-night news conference that the North sought only partial sanctions relief and offered a permanent end to tests of its nuclear weapons and long-range missiles. The U.S. demanded "one more" step beyond dismantling its main nuclear facility in Yongbyon, the South Korean intelligence agency Yonhap quoted Ri as saying.

The agency said Ri insisted the North would not change its position even if the Americans ask for further talks.

Deal-breaker

The outcome was a disappointment to many who had predicted the leaders would agree to concrete measures ranging from exchanging liaison offices to declaring a symbolic end to the 1950-53 Korean War.

Trump and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo insisted the process would continue and said Kim had promised not to resume nuclear and missile tests, which raised fears of a new conflict in 2016-17.

But some experts said the effort to rid the North of its nuclear weapons, which began in force early last year after months of tensions, was in danger of losing steam.

Scaled-back exercise scheduled in S. Korea

By COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The U.S. military intends to hold a scaled-back version of its annual spring training exercise with South Korean troops in March, Pentagon officials said Thursday after the second meeting between President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un abruptly ended with no nuclear agreement.

The simultaneous, command-level exercises, which have long been known as Foal Eagle and Key Resolve, were scheduled to continue as planned on a scaled-back level designed to maintain military readiness without drawing the attention of the North Koreans, two defense officials said Thursday. One of the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the Pentagon was for now, moving forward "status quo" in the wake of Trump

"There was an opportunity here to make some gains by starting small. Instead, both parties chose to walk away empty-handed," said Catherine Kilough of the Ploughshares Fund, a global security foundation.

"The clock is ticking for Trump," she said. "He will continue to spin all this as a victory, but if he loses interest in trying to engage Kim, momentum for negotiations at the working level will peter out."

The summit began Wednesday on a positive note, with both leaders vowing to make it successful as they talked one-on-one and had dinner with key aides.

But the mood erupted in confusion after several hours of talks on Thursday when the White House announced plans for a working lunch and a joint signing ceremony had been canceled.

Trump said he decided not to go forward with an agreement, although he insisted that papers had been prepared for signatures.

"Basically, they wanted the sanctions lifted in their entirety and we couldn't do that," he said, adding that the North Koreans had been willing to give up their Yongbyon nuclear material-production facility, but the Americans wanted more.

"It just wasn't appropriate," he said. "I think rather do it right than do it fast."

Trump and Kim first met on June 12 in Singapore, an unprecedented summit between countries that have been enemies since the 1950-53 Korean War.

They promised in a vaguely worded statement to work toward the "complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula," as well as to improve relations, build a "lasting and stable peace regime" and to recover the remains of thou-

sands of troops killed in the war.

Expensive exercises

Trump also announced in Singapore that he was halting annual military drills with South Korea that have long been an irritant to the North, which considers them a rehearsal for an invasion.

When asked Thursday if he would resume the exercises, he reiterated his complaint that they cost too much.

"Exercising is fun and it's nice and they play the war games. I'm not saying it's not necessary because on some levels it is and on other levels it's not," he said. "But it's a very, very expensive thing."

U.S. Forces Korea, which oversees the approximately 28,500 American troops based on the divided peninsula, has been mum about potential plans for annual springtime drills known as Key Resolve/Foal Eagle.

South Korean media have reported that the exercises will be scaled back and renamed 19-1. Amid the deadlock in nuclear talks, U.S. intelligence officials have warned that the North has no intention of relinquishing its hard-won nuclear capabilities. Satellite images and other reports also have shown the North is continuing to develop weapons.

Trump alluded to these concerns, saying the U.S. wanted to shut down plutonium and uranium facilities other than Yongbyon. "We brought many points up that I think they were surprised that we knew," he said.

Senior U.S. and North Korean diplomats have met several times in recent weeks trying to hammer out a deal.

Pompeo said the leaders were unable to push it over the finish line at the summit due to differ-



EVAN VUCCI/AP

President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un take a walk after their first meeting Thursday in Hanoi.

ences over sequencing and timing issues.

"We made real progress ... unfortunately we didn't get all the way," he said after Trump yielded the microphone to him at the press conference.

"I wish we could have gotten a little bit further," he added. "But I'm very optimistic ... that the progress put us in position to get a really good outcome."

Trump sought to lower expectations earlier in the day when he said he was in "no rush" to make a deal. But the news came as a disappointment to South Korea, which was eager for a deal that would allow it to move forward with inter-Korean initiatives that are limited by sanctions.

"It is regrettable that [Trump and Kim] were unable to reach complete agreement," President Moon Jae-in's office said in a statement. "However, it seems clear that they have made more meaningful progress than at any time prior."

A deal is still possible, said David Santoro, a nuclear policy specialist with the Pacific Forum

research institute.

"North Korea isn't prepared and probably won't ever be prepared to denuclearize," he said.

"It wants to make concessions on some elements of its program but retain a functioning nuclear arsenal."

"At present, the U.S. isn't willing to accept that," he said. "That may change if the discussions move on to the working level and yield results."

"The administration will want results and the only way to get results will be to accept that North Korea will retain some nuclear deterrent capability," he said.

gamel.kim@stripes.com
Twitter: @kingame1

SPECIAL OFFER

Military Discounts on all flights between January - March

Military ID-Card holders & family members only

Atlanta	414 €
Dallas	409 €
Las Vegas	399 €
Tampa	438 €

Need help? Call us!

0621-72920

www.abctravel.de

Flights from January 13 to March 31, 2019 RTW from Germany. Prices starting from, including all taxes, based on availability. Get Military discount fares all year! ABC Travel Service AG, Gönnerstraße 3, 68309 Mannheim

Kim, again said the U.S.-South Korean exercises are expensive and questioned whether they were necessary.

The president claimed each large-scale exercise in South Korea cost the United States about \$100 million. Last year, the Pentagon said the cancellation of its major fall exercise, Ulchi Freedom Guardian, which is comparable in size and scope to Foal Eagle and Key Resolve, saved taxpayers about \$14 million.

"Those exercises are very expensive," Trump told reporters in the Vietnamese capital. "And I was telling the generals - I said: 'Look, you know, exercising is fun, and it's nice and they play the war games. And I'm not saying it's not necessary, because at some levels it is, but at other levels, it's not.' But it's a very, very expensive thing, and you know, we do have to think about that, too."

dstickstein.corey@stripes.com
Twitter: @CDicksteinDC

and Kim leaving their summit in Vietnam early without a new deal to end the North's nuclear programs.

The White House has not ordered the Pentagon to halt its planning for the scaled-back exercise, which would involve tens of thousands of American and South Korean troops, the officials said. One of the officials said some in the Pentagon had expected Trump to scrap the exercises altogether following the meeting, as he did last year after his first unprecedented talks with Kim. Trump has described such operations as expensive and provocative to the North.

Pentagon spokespersons declined Thursday to discuss the status of the upcoming training exercise or to comment on the second summit between Trump and Kim, directing questions to the White House.

The Defense Department was not directly involved in the nego-

tiations with North Korea aimed at ending its nuclear program but the department is committed to supporting the process, said Army Lt. Col. Dave Eastburn, a Pentagon spokesman.

"Our forces maintain a high state of military readiness and vigilance in full support of a diplomatically led effort to bring peace, prosperity and stability to the Korean Peninsula," he said.

In recent years, Foal Eagle has included some 11,500 American troops and 290,000 South Korean troops and has consisted of field exercise involving ground, air, naval and special operations troops. Typically, Foal Eagle has been held in the spring alongside the computer-simulated Key Resolve exercise, which included about 12,200 Americans and 10,000 South Korean personnel last year.

Trump, in a news conference in Hanoi, Vietnam on Thursday after ending the meeting with

PACIFIC

North Korea's Kim projects new image

By KIM GAMEL
Stars and Stripes

HANOI, Vietnam — North Korean leader Kim Jong Un is showing confidence in his hold on power during his second summit with President Donald Trump.

The 35-year-old, third-generation ruler has answered questions from foreign reporters in what's believed to be a first. His state-run media broadcast his where-

abouts with uncharacteristic speed and detail. And he arrived in the Vietnamese capital Tuesday with most of his senior aides, including his powerful sister, Kim Yo Jong, in tow.

It's all part of a image makeover aimed at projecting Kim as an international statesman, which began with a new engagement with the United States last year, experts said.

"He is getting more comfortable with being in the limelight and has done a number of things over the past year to appear more like other leaders," said Jenny Town, a research analyst at the Washington-based Stimson Center.

"Things like bringing his wife on state visits; changing the set/design of his new year's address; more real-time or only short delay of domestic media coverage, these are all parts of an evolving public image," she added.

North Korean media have traditionally reported on the leader's whereabouts days after the fact, but the Korean Central News Agency has publicized the two-day summit that began Wednesday.

"The historic second meeting of the top leaders of the two countries began at 18:30, February 27, local time, followed by one-on-one chat and dinner," the Korean Central News Agency reported hours after it occurred.

"Sincere and deep opinions were exchanged with a view to making comprehensive and epoch-making results in the talks in order to meet the interest and expectation of the whole world for the successful Hanoi summit," KCNA said.

North Korea's main newspaper also was plastered with photos of Kim's trip abroad, starting with his 60-plus-hour train ride from Pyongyang to Vietnam, via China.

That reflects a confidence in Kim's leadership after years of carefully orchestrated efforts to consolidate power, said Michael Madden, who runs a blog that tracks North Korea's leadership.

"If they didn't have confidence in political control mechanisms then they wouldn't be publishing his whereabouts in real time," Madden said Thursday in a telephone interview. "It's a sign that he's confident of the structure in place while he's out of the country."

Kim was younger than 30 when he assumed control of the isolated country after his father, Kim Jong Il, died of a heart attack in 2011. He rarely appeared in public over the next several years as he moved to eliminate any challenge to his power with executions and purges.

In another first, Kim answered questions for foreign reporters during his talks with Trump, vowing to make the summit a success and reiterating his commitment to denuclearize.

But one topic apparently remained off-limits — human rights.

When a reporter asked Kim if he would discuss the issue, Trump responded by saying, "We're discussing everything."

The young leader also brought most of his senior aides with him to Hanoi, raising the question of who's minding the store at home.

"He had to get his own internal house in order," said Madden, director of North Korea Leadership Watch and a contributor to the website 38 North. "His internal position is as consolidated as it possibly can be."

Madden said influential members of the ruling Workers' Party and other lower-level officials remained in the country to keep the day-to-day operations running.

"There's a skeleton crew in place," he said, singling out Politburo member Ri Man Gon and former Gen. Ri Pyong Chol.

Kim's father was extremely

paranoid, although he answered questions for media in writing, Madden said.

His grandfather and the country's founder, Kim Il Sung, gave interviews to 'The New York Times and others, but Kim Jong Un's willingness to engage spontaneously with foreign media "is taking it to a new level," John Delury, an associate professor at Yonsei University in Seoul, tweeted.

"Implications for North Korea are momentous — moving away from the totalitarian aspirations of perfect order and control, toward a more open, spontaneous, 'imperfect' place," he wrote.

gamel.kim@stripes.com
Twitter: @kimgamel



EVAN VUCCI/AP

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, center, smiles during a meeting with President Donald Trump on Thursday in Hanoi.

Over Here or Over There, We've Got You Covered



GEICO OVERSEAS BENEFITS

- Flexible payment plans
- Maintain a continuous driving record
- Worldwide claims service in English
- Coverage in most countries

GEICO

geico.com/overseas

Europe: 0049-631-41463100 USA: 800-248-4998

overseas@geico.com

AUTO

MOTORCYCLE

PERSONAL PROPERTY

BOAT

Overseas coverages provided by non-affiliated insurance companies through GEICO Financial Services, GmbH, a GEICO affiliate. Some discounts, coverages, payment plans and features are not available in all states. In all GEICO companies, or in all situations, Motorcycle and ATV coverages are underwritten by GEICO Indemnity Company. Renewals, rates and credit coverages are written through non-affiliated insurance companies and are issued through the GEICO Insurance Agency, Inc. Boat and PWC coverages are underwritten by GEICO Marine Insurance Company. GEICO is a registered service mark of Government Employees Insurance Company, Washington, D.C. 20076 • Berkshire Hathaway Inc. subsidiary. GEICO Geico image © 1999-2018. © 2018 GEICO

Trump doesn't think Kim had a role in US student's death

Associated Press

HANOI, Vietnam — President Donald Trump says he doesn't think North Korean leader Kim Jong Un was involved in the mistreatment of American college student Otto Warmbier, who died after being detained in the North.

Trump said of Kim: "He tells me that he didn't know about it, and I will take him at his word."

Trump has taken credit for freeing American prisoners

abroad and used Warmbier's death as a rallying cry against the North's human rights abuses before softening his rhetoric before talks with Kim.

Warmbier, a University of Virginia student from Ohio, was sentenced to 15 years of hard labor in 2016 on suspicion of stealing a propaganda poster. He died in June 2017, shortly after being sent home in a coma.

His parents say he was tortured.

EUROPE



Courtesy of Andrew Peck

Spc. Kendra Lay, a wheeled vehicle mechanic with the 173rd Airborne Brigade, posed in front of a vehicle for a photo exhibition of military women in Vicenza.



Courtesy of Karina Cazares Cantu

First Lt. Anna Hodge, who last year became the 15th woman to graduate from the grueling Army Ranger School and is a military intelligence officer with the 173rd Brigade, poses with her husband, Matthew.

‘Women Warriors’

Italian art exhibition shows many sides of American military women

BY NANCY MONTGOMERY
Stars and Stripes

VICENZA, Italy — The 15th woman to graduate from Army Ranger School is one of a score of local military women featured in a photography exhibit here highlighting how things have changed for female servicemembers, and how they’ve stayed the same.

The exhibit of 23 photographs, shot by six locally assigned photographers — one male sergeant and five women married to soldiers — will be on display at the gallery Cantiere Barche in downtown Vicenza starting at 6 p.m. Friday. It runs through Sunday.

Titled “Women Warriors,” the exhibit is sponsored by the group Vicenza Women of Color, which organizes outings and community engagement. It is the second year that the group, which is open to all, has put on a woman-oriented photo exhibition.

The idea is to show people, including local Italians, the many roles played by American women assigned to U.S. Army Garrison Italy, said Nagita Sykes, a leader of the group.

“We decided that we’d show Italians a different side than perhaps how they see the female soldier,” said Sykes, who previously served on active duty and is now an Army civilian and reservist. “They’ll be able to see a breastfeeding woman in uniform, a pregnant woman at the gym.”

Other photos show soldiers wearing jump gear, posing in front of their Humvees or ca-noodling with their husbands in front of a waterfall.

“Yes, there’s some femininity in it. You can be a mother and still do whatever,” Sykes said.

About half the women pictured are with the 173rd Airborne Brigade, Sykes said. The rest are wives and Defense Department civilians, many of them Army veterans.

montgomery.nancy@stripes.com
Twitter: @montgomerynancy



Courtesy of Maria Di Bianca Cavins

First Sgt. Melinda Kelley, of the health clinic at Caserma Ederle, flexes for a recent photo included in the exhibition.



Courtesy of Karina Cazares Cantu

Alexa Walrond, who retired as an Army captain, shares a moment with her husband in one of 23 photos of military women on exhibition at a downtown Vicenza gallery.

MILITARY

Senator urges action on burn pit legislation

By CLAUDIA GRISALES
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Sen. Sherrod Brown on Wednesday renewed calls for new legislation and a congressional hearing to address the health concerns of servicemembers and veterans who were exposed to burn pits while deployed in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Brown, D-Ohio, said Congress needs to hear directly from servicemembers and veterans who have suffered serious health problems related to the open-air burn pits used to dispose of toxic waste.

The burn pits exposed deployed servicemembers to dangerous chemicals and fumes that have been linked to a series of deadly illnesses, said Brown, who is a member of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Hundreds of open pits were

used at U.S. military bases in Iraq and Afghanistan — until banned by Congress in 2010 — to burn trash, human waste, petroleum, rubber and other debris and released hazardous smoke into the air. Some troops exposed to smoke from burn pits have attributed medical conditions, such as respiratory issues and cancer, to the toxic fumes.

"We need to pass this bill," Brown, who is weighing a run for the presidency, said Wednesday during an afternoon call with reporters. And "we need hearings on the Veterans Affairs committee."

The Burn Pit Accountability Act, S. 191, sponsored by Sen. Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn., who is also a presidential candidate, was introduced Jan. 17 and co-sponsored by a bipartisan group of 30 senators including Brown.

The legislation requires the Defense Department to evalu-

ate servicemembers for the toxic exposure during routine medical exams and directs more data collection.

"What this bill does is give us the data," said Navy veteran Art Davis, of Ohio, who was also on the call Wednesday with Brown. Davis is also a member of the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America organization, one of several veterans and military organizations supporting the legislation.

Brown said lawmakers have a responsibility to ensure veterans have the care that they need to address the dangers that they face while serving the country. The legislation would be a first step to addressing the unique health concerns.

The comments come a week after a congressman conducted a series of town hall meetings in Texas to address legislation in the lower chamber on burn pits.

Rep. Joaquin Castro, D-Texas, is pushing two House bills that he sponsored to expand the tracking and evaluation of veterans and servicemembers who spent time living or working near burn pits while deployed overseas.

The first bill, the Family Member Access to Burn Pits Registry Act of 2019, or H.R. 1001, would expand the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry to allow family members of veterans to register their loved ones who might be too sick to do so or have died. The inability of family members to do this is "a gap in the law," Castro said Thursday in San Antonio.

Created in 2014, the registry is managed by the Department of Veterans Affairs and is open to veterans of Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation New Dawn, veterans who served in Djibouti, Africa, or after Sept. 11, 2001,

and Operations Desert Shield or Desert Storm veterans and others who served in the Southwest Asia theater of operations on or after Aug. 2, 1990.

The second bill, the Burn Pits Veterans Revision Act of 2019, or H.R. 1005, would create a diagnostic code and evaluation criteria for obliterative bronchiolitis, a medical condition often linked to burn pits. The law would also create a disability rating for the illness.

"That would do great justice to our veterans suffering from exposure," Castro said.

Despite the political divides in Congress, Castro said he believes this issue has the ability to "transcend politics."

Stars and Stripes reporter Rose L. Thayer contributed to this report. grisales.claudia@stripes.com
Twitter: @cgrisales

Netflix: Soldier's graphic novel was inspired in part by disaster in Haiti

FROM FRONT PAGE

It's set in the near future when the world's adoption rates boom and human trafficking is the norm as children become a valuable commodity. Brothers Jackie and Julian, who operate a South American adoption agency, get mixed up with criminal organizations who kidnap children to sell them to desperate Americans.

"What the brothers suddenly find themselves with their backs against the wall, Jackie makes a grave mistake that sends them spiraling into a dark mystery at the root of their world's status quo; a mystery much darker than they might be able to bear," a Netflix synopsis said.

The world of the story is a dystopia, but "not like a 'Mad-Max'-type dystopia," Johnson said.

"The story is more about the two brothers and how they move through this world and develop together," he said.

He got the idea for the story after a January 2010 earthquake that devastated Haiti, killing a reported 300,000 and leaving about 1 million without homes. Johnson, who was doing volunteer work to combat human trafficking around that time, heard a story on the news about a group from Idaho that had tried to "rescue" three dozen Haitian children by taking them across the border to an orphanage in the Dominican Republic.

There were two problems: The Americans didn't have permission to transport the kids and many of them had living parents. The group was arrested on kidnapping charges, and Johnson began asking himself, "What would happen if this was the only way for Americans to have kids?"

Published by BOOM! Studios, "The Last Sons of America" is Johnson's first published comic and explores contemporary is-

suues like the effects the U.S. has on the rest of the world as well as concerns about for-profit adoption agencies and human trafficking.

"It's been amazing to see this all come together. ... The opportunity to tell a story that means so much to me, to such a huge audience is more than I hoped for," said Johnson. "Seeing it come to life on the page with Matthew Dow Smith's art was already a dream come true. Seeing it come

'Seeing it come to life on the screen is going to be a little insane.'

Phillip Kennedy Johnson
U.S. Army
sergeant first class
and writer

Dinklage discovered the book and apparently really liked it and saw himself in it," Johnson said.

Dinklage then brought it to Reeves, best known for helming 2008's "Cloverfield" and the last two films in the recent "Planet of the Apes" trilogy. The film will be adapted and directed by Josh Mond, writer and director of 2015's "James White," Netflix said.

Additional casting is still being discussed. Deadline Hollywood reported.

Since his first book was published, Johnson has written several others, including a four-issue series "Warlords of Appalachia" about a feudal warlord in rural Kentucky after a second U.S. civil war.

He said being a soldier has given him a unique perspective on the world, that other writers may not have.

"All of my stories are about America and I think show my patriotism a little bit," Johnson said. "My experience of being in the military has been nothing but positive for me as a writer and a person."

The Army and his command have been supportive of his writing and have allowed him the flexibility he needs, though he sometimes struggles for time to write.

"I travel a lot for my job, so I write all the time on the bus, or in hotels, or even just for 30 seconds at a time at the gym or in line at

the pharmacy — whenever I get a chance to write," Johnson said.

While his writing career is flourishing, he said he wants to stay in the Army.

"I love my writing, and I'm definitely going to keep doing it. I have a ton of stories I want to tell. But, I value the work I do with the Army Field Band," Johnson said. "I wouldn't quit for anything."

Servicemembers pursuing creative projects will face challenges, Johnson said, but they should know that it's possible to succeed.

"You'll have to make sacrifices to give everyone your best work, but you can do it, and it can be extremely rewarding," he said.

egnash.martin@stripes.com
Twitter: @Marty_Stripes



Courtesy of DVIDS

Army Sgt. 1st Class Phillip Kennedy Johnson is the author of the graphic novel "The Last Sons of America."



June 15-21

for the following communities

Ansbach
Hohenfels
Grafenwoehr
Vilseck
Wiesbaden

For Information contact: International@clubbeyond.org

Camp provided by:



June 22-28

for the following communities

Baumholder
Kaiserslautern
Ramstein
Spangdahlem
Stuttgart
Vicenza



Club Beyond is a Non-Federal Entity, it is not a part of the Department of Defense or any of its components and it has no Governmental Status.

Club Beyond.
Where Military Teens Belong

VETERANS

Supreme Court weighs symbolism of cross

By NIKKI WENTLING
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Supreme Court justices Wednesday questioned whether the historic and commemorative significance of a 40-foot cross should allow it to remain on public land in Bladensburg, Md., where it has stood for 94 years.

The Supreme Court is expected to decide whether the cross, a memorial dedicated to 49 local men killed in World War I, is in keeping with the Constitution's First Amendment and the separation of church and state. The outcome of the case could affect other veterans memorials nationwide.

While hearing from the cross' challengers and supporters, at least one of the court's liberal justices appeared willing to consider the cross a WWI symbol in addition to its religious meaning.

That secular symbolism would make the monument constitutional, argued Neal Katyal, a Washington lawyer representing Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, which owns the land where the cross sits.

"World War I does have this history that this is how soldiers were memorialized," said Justice Nancy Kagan, President Barack Obama's former solicitor general. "Because of the battlefields where there were just rows and rows and rows of crosses, the cross became — in peoples' minds — the pre-eminent symbol of how to memorialize WWI dead."

Justices Sonia Sotomayor and Ruth Bader Ginsburg, also in the court's liberal wing, were less willing to separate the cross from its meaning as a symbol of Christianity.

"Does the cross really have a dual meaning, Mr. Katyal?" Ginsburg asked. "It is the pre-eminent symbol of Christianity. People wear crosses to show their devotion to the Christian faith."

In 2014, three local residents and the American Humanist Association, which promotes ethics and the well-being of hu-



Mark Gau/The Washington Post

The Memorial Peace Cross is seen in Bladensburg, Md., in 2012.

manity without religion, filed suit against the planning commission to move or alter the monument, arguing that it violated the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment. "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion."

The American Legion joined with the park and planning commission to defend the cross. The memorial, called the Peace Cross, was erected in 1925 with funds partly raised by the Legion, and its symbol is emblazoned on it.

The words "courage," "valor," "devo-

tion" and "endurance" are also etched into the cross. A plaque on the bottom lists 49 names and has a quote from President Woodrow Wilson:

"The right is more precious than the peace; we shall fight for the things we have always carried nearest our hearts; to such a task we dedicate ourselves."

A federal district court determined in 2015 that the monument served a secular purpose — to honor veterans, rather than promote Christianity. However, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit



Meredith Tibbetts/Stars and Stripes

Protesters rally outside the Supreme Court on Wednesday. American Legion members, who oppose the lawsuit over the cross, stood in silent support of the memorial.

thought differently, ruling later the cross was unconstitutional.

The American Legion petitioned for the Supreme Court review.

"Families and the Legion built it ... to commemorate 49 brave souls who gave their lives in World War I, and it has stood since that time without challenge," Katyal said. "This case, because of its 93-year tradition, is an easy one."

While the cross' supporters venerate the Peace Cross as a historical tribute to the war fallen, its opponents argue it promotes Christianity and excludes non-Christians.

"I don't think that you can say this is just some sort of passive display that people don't take note of," said Monica Miller, representing the American Humanist Association. "How people are processing a monument like this is sort of like a billboard. It kind of engrains in your mind that there is this association between being Christian and having valor, having courage, and whose message that sends to the religious minorities."

Stars and Stripes staff member Meredith Tibbetts contributed to this report. wentling.nikki@stripes.com
Twitter: @nikkiwentling

Pearl Harbor survivor dies at 99

By WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii — Alfred B. Rodrigues Sr., a sailor who survived the Japanese surprise attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, died Sunday in Hawaii. He turned 99 years old on Feb. 7.

The National Park Service confirmed his death Tuesday.

Rodrigues, an avid supporter of and frequent speaker at the Pearl Harbor Visitors Center, was born on the island of Kauai. "Uncle Al," as many locals called him, was always eager to share his experiences as a sailor during World War II.

Rodrigues was one of the few remaining living veterans who survived the attack on Oahu more than 77 years ago.

At age 17, he enlisted in the Navy Reserves, and three years later in 1940 he was called up for active duty, according to an obituary published online by the Pearl Harbor Visitors Bureau.

He was posted at a station at Bishop Point on the mouth of Pearl Harbor — now a part of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam — as a chief storekeeper.

He was on watch duty on the Sunday morning of the surprise attack and saw firsthand the USS Ward dropping depth charges on a Japanese mini-sub that had attempted to enter Pearl Harbor before the attack commenced.

The USS Ward is regarded as the first U.S. ship to fire a shot in the Pacific during World War II.

Shortly after witnessing that, Rodrigues went to have breakfast. He didn't have a chance to finish it.

With the sound of explosions in the harbor, Rodrigues heard the sounding of the general alarm, a call to battle stations.

He raced to the armory, retrieved a .30-caliber rifle and began shooting at the flurry of fighter and torpedo planes swarming overhead. He and others continued firing for the duration of the two-hour attack, but the small arms had little effect on the aircraft.

He went on to serve at multiple locations during the war and in 1943 was transferred to the battleship USS Washington. The ship was responsible for sinking the Japanese battleship Kirishima and seriously damaging the destroyer Ayanami.

In 1945, he was transferred to the District Material Redistribution Office in New York City for the duration of the war.

He returned to Hawaii as a civilian at war's end with the intention of becoming a police officer. But he ended up re-enlisting in the Navy, where he served as a chief in the Yards and Docks Supply Depot. He retired after 24 years.

In his later years, he frequently volunteered to share his wartime experiences with guests at the Pearl Harbor Visitors Center. He was a stalwart in attending the annual ceremony held to commemorate the 1941 attack.

olson.wyatt@stripes.com
Twitter: @WyattWolson



Rodrigues

VA offering financial incentives to fill jobs

By ROSE L. THAYER
Stars and Stripes

With roughly 49,000 vacancies in its workforce, the Department of Veterans Affairs is using financial incentives to prioritize hiring professionals in mental health, women's health and primary care, VA Secretary Robert Wilkie said Wednesday on Capitol Hill.

Speaking to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs for the first time in 2019, Wilkie said he had to get the VA's human resources department in order before he could address hiring needs.

"I have to prioritize our efforts as to where we have the most need," he said, answering a question about the vacancies from Rep. Conor Lamb, D-Pa. "My first week as secretary, I had two senior officials come to me with two different numbers as to the number of employees we had."

Wilkie said he chose to focus the agency's hiring efforts on mental health, women's health and primary care because they are of greatest demand at VA facilities.

Each health care facility touts access to same-day mental health appointments, and the population of women veterans is continuing to grow. The increased need for primary care professionals is driven by newer veterans being used to urgent care, he said.

To entice job candidates in a tough labor market, Wilkie said the VA is using the financial incentives of relocation, bonus pay and increased salaries.

"I'm going to probably come back to you and ask to expand those so we can reach deeper into those populations," he said.

About 43,000 of the VA vacancies are within the Veterans Health Administration. Dr. Richard Stone, the administration's executive in charge, told committee members. He said the VA has purchased commercial human resource management software and the agency is now better able to monitor openings within their workforce.

thayer.rose@stripes.com
Twitter: @Rose_Lori

MILITARY/VETERANS

Coast Guard lieutenant indicted; charges added

Maryland man accused of plotting attack faces more than 30 years

By LYNH BUI

The Washington Post

A U.S. Coast Guard lieutenant accused of planning a domestic terrorist attack illegally possessed silencers among the arsenal of weapons prosecutors contend he stockpiled for his plot, according to new court filings.

A federal grand jury indicted Christopher Hasson, 49, of Maryland, on Wednesday, adding two new charges related to unlawful possession of silencers to the drug and weapons counts he has faced since his initial Feb. 15 arrest.

Two silencers Hasson had in his possession did not have serial numbers and had not been registered as required by law, the U.S. attorney's office in Maryland said in announcing Hasson's indictment. The indictment, which does not include terrorism-related counts, did not indicate why the silencers lacked serial numbers.

Hasson was taken into custody at work this month after a computer program the Coast Guard uses to search for insider threats flagged suspicious activity connected with him, federal authorities said.

After executing a search warrant at his Silver Spring home and office, law enforcement uncovered a cache of weapons from the basement apartment Hasson lived in, prosecutors said. Officers also found a spreadsheet of "traitors" and targets of politicians and media personalities he

It is not a crime to have negative thoughts, federal public defender Julie Stelzig said of the man who is accused of planning a domestic terrorist attack.



Hasson

Proseccutors say Hasson used his government computer to plot an assault, studying the writings of mass shooters and bombers and conducting internet searches on where to find politicians in the Washington area.

Hasson's federal public defender, Julie Stelzig, argued at his detention hearing that the government's accusations were "inflammatory" and that there was no indication he planned to carry out an attack. It is not a crime to have negative thoughts, Stelzig added.

In the same alleged plot, Hasson had been charged earlier with possession of firearms and ammunition by an unlawful user of a controlled substance and unlawful possession of Tramadol, a painkiller.

Last week, a federal magistrate judge ordered Hasson detained so prosecutors could consider ad-

ditional charges. His next court hearing hasn't been scheduled.

Prosecutors said Hasson faces up to 31 years in prison for the three weapons charges and Tramadol possession if he is convicted.

Hasson has been in the Coast Guard for more than two decades and previously served in the Marine Corps and Army National Guard. His secret security clearance has been suspended, Coast Guard officials said.

In some of the writings found in his email, Hasson described himself as a "long time White Nationalist" and contemplated ways to incite violence and turmoil, according to court documents.

"... I can't just strike to wound I must find a way to deliver a blow that cannot be shaken off," court documents say Hasson wrote in a draft email found in the "elections" subfolder of his computer.



MANUEL BALCE CENETA/AP

Sully, former President George H.W. Bush's service dog, sits nearby as the late president lay in state at the U.S. Capitol in Washington on Dec. 4.

George H.W. Bush's former service dog has new mission

The Washington Post

One mission is complete and another is just getting started. Sully the service dog, who famously stood by his "boss," George H.W. Bush, in the months before the former president's death in November, is back to work.

Sully, who is named after "hero pilot" Chesley B. "Sully" Sullenberger III, was sworn in Wednesday to the Facility Dog Program at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center.

"It was (President Bush's) wish that Sully serve other veterans," said Sully's trainer, Valerie Cramer, of America's VetDogs, during a news conference in December. Cramer went on to describe Sully as calm, loyal, smart and adapt-

able to all environments.

In his new job, the famous Labrador will visit injured vets and provide comfort for servicemembers and their families rehabilitating at Walter Reed.

Sully rose to national fame in the wake of Bush's passing after a photo of the service dog lying by the former president's casket went viral with the caption "Mission Complete."

According to his Instagram page (yes, Sully has one), his official rank is Hospital Corpsman Second Class, an enlisted medical specialist in the U.S. Navy.

Sully (OK, his human handler) wrote that his new assignment was "an honor and a privilege."

FBI: Army vet shot doctor at VA hospital in Florida

By NIKKI WENTLING

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — An Army veteran shot a doctor in the neck Wednesday evening just before a mental health evaluation at a Department of Veterans Affairs hospital in Riviera Beach, Fla., according to the FBI.

Larry Roy Bon, 59, was identified by the FBI as the alleged shooter.

Authorities said Bon arrived at the West Palm Beach VA Medical Center on Wednesday morning and had been combative for hours.

A hospital technician was in the restroom with Bon, a double amputee in a wheelchair, and saw him loading a weapon, according to a report by local news station CBS12. When the technician went to seek help, the shooter allegedly came out of the restroom firing, the local CBS station reported.

Bon served in the Army for slightly more than a month in the 1970s, and his double amputation is not thought to be the result of any military-related service, NBC reported.

FBI Special Agent Justin Fleck said the doctor subdued Bon, who is also accused of shooting at other patients and staff. VA officials said no one else was harmed despite earlier reports of multiple people being wounded in the shooting.

VA spokeswoman Mary Kay Rutan said the doctor, who was not immediately identified, was treated and released.

VA officials said the Riviera Beach facility was secure and there would be no disruption Thursday to scheduled appointments.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.
wentling.nikki@stripes.com
Twitter: @nikkiwentling

ACCOMPLISH WHAT OTHERS CAN'T

U.S. ARMY SPECIAL OPERATIONS



Special Forces

goarmysof.com

NATION

Cohen returns to Capitol Hill for questioning

By MARY CLARE JALONICK,
ERIC TUCKER and MICHAEL R. SISAK
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump's former lawyer returned to Capitol Hill on Thursday for hours of closed-door questioning after publicly branding his former boss a racist and a con man who lied about business dealings in Russia and directed him to conceal extramarital relationships.

Cohen was speaking privately Thursday to the House intelligence committee, the last of three appearances before Congress this week.

Cohen, who pleaded guilty last year to lying to Congress and soon reports to prison for a three-year sentence, gave harsh testimony about Trump on Wednesday. He said Trump knew in advance that damaging emails about Democrat Hillary Clinton would be released, something the president has denied, and accused Trump of lying during the 2016 campaign about a Moscow real estate project.

Cohen also said Trump directed him to arrange a hush money payment to a porn actress who she said had sex with the president a decade earlier. He said the president arranged to reimburse Cohen, and Cohen brought to the hearing a check that he said was proof of the transaction.

Cohen's matter-of-fact testimony about secret payments and lies unfolded as Trump was thousands of miles away from Washington, meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. Trump said Thursday he tried to watch as much of Cohen's marathon congressional hearing as he could. He slammed the hearing as "fake" and said it



ALEX BRANDON/AP

Michael Cohen, right foreground, President Donald Trump's former personal lawyer, arrives to testify before a closed hearing on Capitol Hill in Washington on Thursday.

was a "terrible thing" for Democrats to hold it during the summit.

He seized on Cohen's concession that he had no direct evidence that Trump or his aides colluded with Russia to get him elected, the primary question of special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation. Trump said he was a "little impressed" that Cohen had said that to the House Oversight and Reform Committee.

Cohen, shaking off incessant criticism

from Republicans anxious to paint him as a felon and a liar, became the first Trump insider to pull back the curtain on a version of the inner workings of Trump's political and business operations. He likened the president to a "mobster" who demanded blind loyalty from underlings and expected them to lie on his behalf.

"My loyalty to Mr. Trump has cost me everything: my family's happiness, friendships, my law license, my company, my

livelihood, my honor, my reputation and soon my freedom," Cohen said. "I will not sit back, say nothing and allow him to do the same to the country."

In testimony that cut to the heart of federal investigations encircling the White House, Cohen said he arranged the hush money payment to porn actress Stormy Daniels at Trump's behest and agreed to lie about it to the public and the first lady. And he said he was left with the unmistakable impression Trump would lie to lie to Congress about a Moscow real estate project, though the president never directly told him so.

In one revelation, Cohen said prosecutors in New York were investigating conversations Trump or his advisers had with him after his office and hotel room were raided by the FBI last April. Cohen said he could not discuss that conversation, the last contact he said he has had with the president or anyone acting on his behalf, because it remains under investigation.

The appearance marked the latest step in Cohen's evolution from legal fixer in the president to a foe who has implicated him in federal campaign finance violations. The hearing proceeded along parallel tracks, with Democrats focusing on allegations against Trump while Republicans sought to undermine Cohen's credibility and the proceeding itself.

As Republicans blasted him as a convicted liar, a mostly unruffled Cohen sought to blunt the attacks by repeatedly acknowledging his own failings. He called himself a "fool," warned lawmakers of the perils of blind loyalty to a leader undeserving of it and pronounced himself ashamed of what he'd done to protect Trump.

Lawyer's testimony stokes touchy topic of impeachment

By LISA MASCARO and STEVE PEOPLES
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Michael Cohen's testimony is just the beginning.

The House oversight hearing with President Donald Trump's former attorney, coming in advance of special counsel Robert Mueller's report, heralds what Democrats in Congress view as the long days ahead providing checks and balances on the Oval Office.

For some, the outcome may — or may not — lead to grounds for impeachment.

ANALYSIS For others, impeachment cannot come fast enough. What is certain, though, is the mounting tension.

As the hearings and investigations unfold, Democrats, particularly those running for the White House, may be speeding toward a moment when they have no choice but to consider the I-word.

Newly elected Democratic Rep. Rashida Tlaib, among the most outspoken lawmakers on impeachment, says that as the 2020 presidential candidates visit her Detroit-area district, "one question is going to ask where they stand on this issue."

Voters are less concerned with Mueller's Russia investigation, Tlaib said, than the day-to-day White House operations and "whether or not there's a crooked CEO in the Oval Office."

Hours into Cohen's testimony Wednesday, New Hampshire statehouse Speaker Steve Shurtleff, a Democrat, said that impeaching the president was becoming a realistic option.

"They're putting a lot of meat on the bone," Shurtleff said in an interview. "It could be a one-day push," he said of the Cohen hearing and Mueller report. "I

'The American people expect us to hold the administration accountable. And if during the course of that we come upon sufficient evidence that warrants his removal, I think they expect us to do that.'

Rep. David Cicilino, D-R.I.

think it'll connect a lot of dots."

Trump allies have tried to use the prospect of impeachment as a political weapon. The president's former chief counselor, Steve Bannon, had warned before the 2018 elections that Democrats would impeach the president if they won control of Congress.

Republicans are taking up that mantle. At the start of the Cohen hearing, the top Republican on the panel, Rep. Jim Jordan, of Ohio, said the only reason for the session was so Democrats could pursue impeachment. Another committee Republican, Rep. Chip Roy, of Texas, called the hearing a "circuit" not worth Americans' time. And newly elected Republican Rep. Carol Miller, of West Virginia, said the sole purpose was "discrediting the president."

"If it was not already obvious," Miller said, "there are members here with a singular goal in Congress to impeach President Trump."

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has kept calls for impeachment at bay by insisting that Mueller first must be allowed to finish his work, which reports suggest could happen in the coming weeks, and present his findings publicly — though it's unclear whether the White House will allow its full release.

Pelosi says the House shouldn't pursue

impeachment for political reasons, nor should it hold back for political reasons. Instead, she says lawmakers need to do their jobs as a co-equal branch of government and go wherever the facts lead.

"The American people expect us to hold the administration accountable," said Rep. David Cicilino, D-R.I., a member of House leadership. "And if during the course of that we come upon sufficient evidence that warrants his removal, I think they expect us to do that."

But Democrats are not there yet, at all. So far, the Democratic Party's potential 2020 class has tried to avoid the impeachment question altogether, fearful that calling for impeachment before the Mueller report is out could undermine the process and trigger a voter backlash.

Among them, only former Texas Rep. Beto O'Rourke has directly called for Trump's impeachment. Others approached the Cohen hearing in more cautious and creative ways.

Sen. Kamala Harris, of California, used the hearings as a fundraising opportunity. "Are you watching Michael Cohen testify before Congress today?" campaign manager Juan Rodriguez wrote. "There's a lot to unpack, but it's abundantly clear: if we are finally going to get to the truth, Congress must act to protect Robert Mueller from

being fired before his findings in the Russia investigation are made public." He asked for donations of between \$10 and \$250.

Sen. Elizabeth Warren, of Massachusetts, sent an email during the hearing promising, if she becomes president, not to pardon anyone implicated in the Trump investigations. She set down a challenge for others running to do same.

Sen. Amy Klobuchar, of Minnesota, tweeted that Cohen's testimony "is a big deal." Sen. Cory Booker, of New Jersey, said in a brief chat that he wasn't watching the hearing but was "looking to digest it."

And Howard Schultz, the former Starbucks CEO considering an independent bid, said the testimony is "another stark reminder of President Trump's utter disregard for honesty and decency."

The liberal base is restive, though. A new group, By the People, launched a pledge drive urging members of both parties in Congress to show leadership by extending the legislative branch's oversight to the next step of impeachment.

"We already know Donald Trump has committed impeachable offenses," said Alexandria Flores-Quintana, a spokesperson for the group. "We can't wait any longer and want our representatives to move forward now."

So far only Tlaib and fellow newly elected Rep. Ilhan Omar, of Minnesota, have signed on.

But as Oversight Committee chairman Rep. Elijah Cummings, of Maryland, exited the hours-long sessions, he told reporters the only people using the I-word were the Republicans.

"Not one person on our side mentioned the word 'impeachment,'" the chairman said.

NATION

Experts downplay US anti-Huawei campaign

By FRANK BAJAK
Associated Press

Since last year, the U.S. has waged a vigorous diplomatic offensive against the Chinese telecommunications giant Huawei, claiming that any nation deploying its gear in next-generation wireless networks is giving Beijing a conduit for espionage or worse.

But security experts say the U.S. government is likely exaggerating that threat. Not only is the U.S. case short on specifics, they say, it glosses over the fact that the Chinese don't need secret access to Huawei routers to infiltrate global networks that already have notoriously poor security.

State-sponsored hackers have shown no preference for one manufacturer's technology over another, these experts say. Kremlin-backed hackers, for instance, adroitly exploit internet routers and other networking equipment made by companies that are not Russian.

If the Chinese want to disrupt global networks, "they will do so regardless of the type of equipment you are using," said Jan-Peter Kleinhans, of the Berlin think tank Stiftung Neue Verantwortung.

One of the most common U.S. fears — that Huawei might install software "backdoors" in its equipment that Chinese intelligence could use to tap into, eavesdrop on or interrupt data transmissions — strikes many experts as highly unlikely.

Priscilla Moriuchi, who retired from the U.S. National Security Agency in 2017 after running its Far East operations, said the risk of Huawei backdoors is "almost zero because of the chance that it would be discovered," thus exposing Huawei's complicity.

Moriuchi, now an analyst at the U.S. cybersecurity firm Recorded Future, said



Andy Wong/AP

Richard Yu, CEO of the Huawei consumer business group, unveils a wireless router running with 5G modem Balong 5000 chipset in Beijing in January.

she and other NSA employees were tasked with searching for Huawei hardware and software backdoors created by Chinese intelligence but never found any.

European allies have been reluctant to embrace the anti-Huawei cause. But U.S. officials continue to cast the world's No. 1 telecom-equipment maker as little more than an untrustworthy surrogate for Beijing's intelligence services.

The top U.S. diplomat for cybersecurity policy, Robert Strayer, says Huawei is obliged to heed Chinese Communist Party orders by a 2017 intelligence law that "compels their citizens and their companies to

participate in intelligence activities."

Strayer provided no specifics when pressed by reporters Tuesday as to how Huawei gear might pose more of a security threat than other manufacturers' switches, routers and wireless base stations. The diplomat spoke at Mobile World Congress, the world's largest wireless trade show, in Barcelona, Spain.

U.S. officials have also claimed next-generation wireless networks will be more vulnerable because more traffic will move from the network's core to its edge, a claim the chairman, Anand Prasad, and vice chair, Alf Ziegenfand, of the technology's

security 3GPP standard committee both questioned.

The American rhetoric has included threats.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo suggested last week any use of Huawei equipment could jeopardize U.S. intelligence sharing and might even be a reason to locate military bases elsewhere. The remarks may have been targeted at NATO allies including Poland and the Czech Republic where Huawei has made significant inroads.

A spokeswoman for the U.S. National Security Council declined to comment or to provide any officials to address specifics. A State Department spokesman referred The Associated Press to a press statement on Strayer's remarks in Barcelona.

Huawei, founded in 1987 by a former military engineer, overtook Sweden's LM Ericsson in 2017 as the lead company in the market for wireless and internet switching gear. It says it supplies 45 of the world's top 50 phone companies and has contracts with 30 carriers to test so-called fifth-generation, or 5G, wireless technology.

U.S. companies are not serious competitors in this market, having pulled back over the years. Huawei's major rivals are European — Ericsson and Finland's Nokia.

The U.S. has provided no evidence of China planting espionage backdoors in Huawei equipment despite a 2012 congressional report that led the U.S. government and top domestic wireless carriers to ban it and other Chinese manufacturers from their networks.

"The backdrop for this is essentially the rise of China as a tech power in a variety of domains" said Paul Triolo, tech lead at the Eurasia Group risk analysis consultancy. Now, he said, "there is a big campaign to paint Huawei as an irresponsible actor."

NC operative charged with ballot tampering

By EMERY P. DALESIO
Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — Leslie McCrae Dowless was known in his rural North Carolina community as a sad-eyed, politically obsessed man who over nearly a decade delivered votes for his candidates and stayed just out of reach of laws protecting ballots from potential tampering.

But less than two years after landing his best-paying client in Republican congressional candidate Mark Harris, Dowless was charged Wednesday with charges of illegal ballot handling and conspiracy in the 2018 Republican primary and in the 2016 elections. He and four people who'd worked for him were also charged with conspiracy to obstruct justice.

North Carolina law makes it illegal for anyone other than a voter or their immediate family to handle an absentee ballot before it is sealed and mailed.

Dowless was arrested less than a week after the state elections board decided his work on behalf of Harris, starting with the 2018 primary, tainted the GOP candidate's apparent victory in November. The board ordered a new

election but hasn't set a date.

Harris is not running in the new election but his Democratic opponent from November, Dan McCready, is.

The charges came a year after state elections investigators published a report detailing that Dowless paid cash-starved rural neighbors to bring him voters' ballots in the 2016 elections. By that time, Harris had already recruited and paid Dowless a retainer to replicate the magic formula that resulted in one of Harris' Republican rivals scoring an incredible 98 percent of the mail-in ballots in the 2016 primary.

Harris funneled about \$115,000 to Dowless through campaign consulting firm Red Dome, which never evaluated the Bladen County man's methods or performance and never asked for expense receipts. Some of that was used to pay workers to put up and take down Harris campaign signs on top of the door-to-door absentee ballot campaign.

But the amount still shocked Dowless' ex-wife and roommate for part of last year, Sandra Dowless said at a special elections board hearing into the ballot-



TRAVIS LONG, THE (RALEIGH, N.C.) NEWS & OBSERVER/AP

Leslie McCrae Dowless Jr. is charged with illegal actions in North Carolina's 2018 and 2016 elections.

fraud allegations last week.

"He didn't ever have any money," she said of the man perpetually holding a cigarette in one hand and cellphone in the other.

Prosecutors are still investigating evidence of ballot tampering by Dowless and others during last fall's congressional election in the mostly rural 9th District, which includes part of Charlotte and extends eastward across several counties.

The indictment represents the first charges in a scandal that has cast doubt on election integrity and will leave a congressional seat unfilled for months.

Dowless has denied any wrongdoing and did not respond to phone and text messages Wednesday. A woman hung up on a call to Dowless' attorney.

DeVos pushes federal tax credit for school choice

Associated Press

The Trump administration on Thursday proposed federal tax credits of up to \$5 billion a year for donations to groups offering scholarships that would help students attend private schools, apprenticeships and other educational programs.

Education Secretary Betsy DeVos is pushing the plan in a renewed bid to expand school choice after earlier initiatives failed. Her support for tuition vouchers and charter schools has been central to her education policy but has yet to take hold in Congress.

In the tax credits, education officials see a more politically appealing path to school choice.

Anticipating the criticism, DeVos argued that the proposal isn't an attack on public education. She said it wouldn't steer "a single cent" away from local public schools. Instead, it would open new money for scholarships and let states decide many of the details.

"The key element of the proposal is freedom for all involved," DeVos wrote in a Thursday opinion piece in USA Today. "Eligible students, families, teachers and schools, as determined by the states, all can participate at will

and any can elect not to participate if that's the better choice for them."

Her plan, called the Education Freedom Scholarships and Opportunity Act, would allot each state a certain limit in federal tax credits for scholarships. States could decide which scholarship groups are covered, along with the size of scholarships and which students are eligible.

Eighteen states have already adopted similar programs on their own, often aimed at students from low-income families. A federal tax credit was discussed as part of last year's tax overhaul but never made it into the bill.

The new plan is being proposed in Congress through bills introduced by Sen. Ted Cruz, of Texas, and Rep. Bradley Byrne, of Alabama, both Republicans. It will face a difficult time in the House after Democrats gained a majority in the November mid-term elections.

DeVos' plan would give individuals and businesses a dollar-for-dollar tax credit for donations to scholarship groups that receive a seal of approval from their states. For every dollar given, it would take a dollar off the donor's tax bill.

NATION

Northern Calif. river floods 2,000 buildings

By HAVEN DALEY
AND OLGA R. RODRIGUEZ
Associated Press

GUERNEVILLE, Calif. — A Northern California river flooded 2,000 homes, businesses and other buildings and left two communities virtual islands after days of stormy weather, officials said Wednesday.

The towns of Guerneville and Monte Rio were hardest hit by water pouring from the Russian River, which topped 46 feet late Wednesday night, said Briana Khan, a Sonoma County spokeswoman.

The river frequently floods in rainy weather but it hadn't reached that level for 25 years and wasn't expected to recede until late Thursday night.

About 3,500 people in two dozen communities along the river remained under evacuation orders.

Jeff Bridges didn't leave even though he said the water was 3 feet deep in some places. The co-owner of the R3 Hotel in Guerneville said he and others who stayed behind were well-prepared to ride out the storm. He and employees moved computers, business records and furniture to a second-floor room.

"As long as everybody is safe, dry and warm, it's all fine. You just ride it out," said Bridges, noting that this flood was the fourth he's experienced in 33 years.

"People in Florida have hurricanes; people in Maine have blizzards. We have floods," he said. "It's the price we have to pay to live in paradise."

The river was one of several in Northern California that was engorged by days of rain from western U.S. storms that also dumped heavy snow in the Sierra Nevada, throughout the Pacific Northwest and into Montana, where Gov. Steve Bullock signed an emergency order to help keep up the supply of heating fuel amid frigid temperatures.

Two Amtrak trains together carrying nearly 300 passengers stopped and reversed directions because of an avalanche that closed railroad tracks in the Sierra Nevada.

In Idaho, the mountain town of Stanley became marooned Wednesday after all three highways leading to the town were closed because of drifting snow, avalanches and the risk of more slides.

Several areas in California set



KENT PORTER, THE (SANTA ROSA, CALIF.) PRESS DEMOCRAT/AP

Jonathan Von Renner Jr. and a friend row past Mill and Third street in Guerneville, Calif., on Wednesday.



MICHAEL SHORT/AP

Amanda Hammer looks out at floodwaters from the Russian River surrounding her home in Forestville, Calif., on Wednesday.

record-high rainfall totals in recent days, including nearby Santa Rosa, which had nearly 8 inches of rain in one day. The often-waterlogged Venado weather station

5 miles from Guerneville recorded more than 20 inches of rain in 48 hours.

Elsewhere in Northern California, dozens of people had to be

rescued from cars stranded while motorists tried to drive through flooded roads. Nina Sheehan, who is visiting from North Carolina, had to abandon her rental SUV after it got stuck in a flooded hotel parking lot.

"We made a decision to take the rental car through the waist-high water and we got two thirds of the way and then the car stalled," she said. "Do not try to go through any water over a foot high because you never know what you're going to find."

Firefighters in Monte Rio worked through the night pulling people out of cars stuck in flooded roadways and getting people out of their homes as water approached. Fire Chief Steve Baxman told the Press-Democrat newspaper of Santa Rosa.

"We took 17 people out of cars and houses during the night. Too many people are driving into water," he said.

Water surrounds Miss. hamlet as rivers rise in South

By JEFF AMY
Associated Press

JACKSON, Miss. — Many Southern communities could face weeks of flooding, along with other disruptions, as recent rains have sent many streams over their banks.

In one Mississippi Delta hamlet, the mayor says water has cut off all but one road into the town and forced some residents to flee. Runoff is pooling behind a Mississippi levee and could cause record flooding. And the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers opened a spillway to relieve pressure on New Orleans.

Nearly the entire state of Tennessee has seen 10-20 inches of rain this month, the National Weather Service said. The Tennessee Department of Transportation is building temporary lanes on Interstate 24 near Nashville after a landslide closed the highway's eastbound lanes Saturday.

Authorities Wednesday estimated 800-900 homes flooded in and around Knoxville.

The Tennessee River was cresting Wednesday at Perryville,



GAVIN MALISKA, THE (GREENWOOD, MISS.) COMMONWEALTH/AP

Terry Huddleston looks out over a flooded area on Due West Plantation, just outside Glendora, Miss., on Tuesday.

Tenn., at the third-highest level ever, with waters predicted to fall gradually. Many riverside buildings are submerged in a string of small towns, and drinking water is cut off in a few areas.

"People are going to be shell-shocked when the water recedes," Hardin County Mayor Kevin Davis told the Jackson Sun.

The Ohio River is predicted to crest this weekend at Cairo, Ill., also at the third-highest level

ever. But the flow is far from over downriver, with crests at Vicksburg, Miss., and below unlikely until the middle of March.

In Glendora, Miss. the hamlet of 151 people was caught between the flooded Tallahatchie River and Black Bayou. Water is within inches of covering U.S. 49, the only unflooded route into town.

Mayor Johnny B. Thomas told The Associated Press that 12-15 houses in the small Delta hamlet

are flooded. A shelter is open, although Thomas said many people are trying to stay home.

The water has receded an inch or two, Thomas said, but National Weather Service forecasters are warning of more rain over the weekend.

"I've never seen it this bad," he said. Thomas said. "I'm surrounded with water under my house."

Some of that water is pooling up against a closed Mississippi River levee and could cause a 75-mile flood in the Mississippi Delta.

Mississippi Levee Board Chief Engineer Peter Nimrod said Wednesday that water inside the Yazoo Backwater Levee could reach the highest levels since the levee was completed in 1978.

The levee protects thousands of square miles from even worse flooding by the Mississippi River. But when officials close a floodgate that keeps out the big river, water draining down smaller rivers has nowhere to go.

That gate is closed now and is unlikely to reopen until late in March.

"The water just sits there," Nimrod said. "It's a dead flat pool."

Clay Adcock, who farms 3,800 acres near Holly Bluff, Miss., said his home has never flooded in the 34 years he's lived there. But he's worried now.

"I'm building a levee today," Adcock said.

All but about 200 acres of his land will be unfarmable until water recedes, Adcock said, meaning he won't be able to plant corn because of a shortened growing season. Instead, Adcock will turn to other crops.

In Louisiana, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers opened a flood control structure upstream of New Orleans to divert Mississippi River water and ease pressure on levees protecting the city.

Cranes lifted wooden timbers from the Bonnet Carré Spillway structure Wednesday. That allows some river water to flow into Lake Pontchartrain.

Wednesday marks the first time the structure has operated in consecutive years. It's the 13th time it's opened since construction was completed in 1931.

NATION

Massage parlors tough to touch

But law enforcement attacking trafficking with different tactics

By PHILIP MARCELO
Associated Press

BOSTON — They're nestled amid bustling downtowns and tucked into nondescript strip malls across quiet suburbs. Brothels posing as massage parlors and Asian spas have been part of the American landscape for decades, hidden in plain sight.

But the Florida prostitution sting that ensnared New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft last week is a reminder of the human trafficking and abuse taking place behind the darkened windows of many of these storefronts — and how challenging they are to address.

The case also highlights how police and prosecutors are increasingly using a broad range of approaches, including deeper investigations into wider criminal networks, crackdowns on online sites where Johns trade detailed sex reviews and enforcement of stricter civil codes on the massage industry, anti-trafficking activists said.

"You're fighting against a multibillion-dollar industry that's very, very good at being strategic and keeping their business going," said Stephanie Clark, executive director at Amirah, a nonprofit that runs a safe house for women escaping sex trafficking in Massachusetts, where illegal massage parlors have proliferated. "They are always 10 steps ahead."

As many as 9,000 illegal massage parlors currently operate in more than 1,000 cities nationwide, fueling a roughly \$3 billion industry, according to the Polaris Project, a nonprofit that runs the National Human Trafficking Hotline.

Most of the prostitutes are women from China and South Korea in their mid-30s to late 50s who have entered the country illegally, are deeply in debt and are drawn into sex work through a combination of lies, threats and other forms of coercion, the organization said.

The massage parlor in Jupiter, Fla., where Massachusetts billionaire Kraft, 77, was videotaped engaging in sex acts is typical of the model.

Tucked into a pedestrian strip mall in an affluent ocean-side community, the Orchids of Asia Day Spa employed mostly Chinese immigrant women and was linked to at least nine other storefronts from Palm Beach to Orlando.

Authorities say the women averaged about 1,500 clients a year, were given no days off and were not allowed to leave the site, where many also lived. Palm Beach State Attorney Dave Aronberg described it as "modern-day slavery."

Eleven alleged owners and managers face a range of prostitution-related offenses. At least one, Lan Yun Ma, 49, of Washington, was not allowed to leave the site, where many also lived. Palm Beach State Attorney Dave Aronberg described it as "modern-day slavery."

Law enforcement officials in California, which is home to roughly a third of the nation's illegal massage parlors, as well as jurisdictions in Minnesota, Utah and Washington are also landing similar large cases, Mylles said.



STEVEN SENNE/AP

Jasmine Grace Marino, of Nashua, N.H., a former massage parlor prostitute, runs Bags of Hope, a Boston-based nonprofit that helps women who have been trafficked.

In Massachusetts, about half of the more than 50 people charged under the state's 8-year-old anti-human trafficking law were involved in illegal massage businesses or residential brothels, according to state Attorney General Maura Healey's office.

In one recent case, a 38-year-old woman was charged with running a lucrative human trafficking and money laundering operation across six Asian massage parlors in the suburbs north of Boston.

Prosecutors said Xiu J. Chen recruited Asian women from New York and arranged their appointments, transportation and housing, where they typically slept on mattresses on the floor. Chen was sentenced to five years in prison in December.

But in New York, another hub of the illegal massage parlor industry, major busts involving sex traffickers remain frustratingly elusive, despite police rolling out a human trafficking strategy in 2017 promising to crack down on customers and traffickers rather than sex workers, said Chris Muller, of Restore NYC, a nonprofit that works with immigrant sex trafficking survivors.

A silver lining is that authorities are helping connect more women with groups that can help get them on a path to citizenship and break the grip of traffickers, who sometimes hold their passports and immigration documents as collateral, he said.

New York police said they investigated 79 illegal massage parlors for nuisance violations in 2018, but didn't say how many of those storefronts were ultimately shut down. Police data also show prostitution arrests declined more than 60 percent from 2016 numbers while arrests of their customers rose nearly 180 percent.

New York is also among the places seeing growing support for decriminalizing and even legalizing sex work, as is the case in parts of Nevada and Europe. But anti-trafficking groups and local officials appear focused, for now, on more attainable legislative goals.

Delaware and North Carolina, for example, recently classified massage parlors as health businesses, making them subject to regular inspections and other sanitation and safety requirements.

By Massachusetts, Healey backs proposed legislation to close a loophole that authorities say has allowed illegal spas to operate as unregulated "bodyworks" operations, despite passage of statewide massage parlor requirements in recent years.

At the city and county level, codes limiting operating hours for massage parlors or banning features like buzzer-controlled



HANNAH MORSE, PALM BEACH (FLA.) POST/AF

A sign is posted at Orchids of Asia Day Spa in Jupiter, Fla., one of several south Florida spas closed as a result of an investigation into sex trafficking.

front doors and back-door entrances have been used in recent years to shutter hundreds of storefronts in San Francisco, San Jose and other parts of California. But officials acknowledge those local measures often just push the industry into neighboring communities without those requirements.

Federal and state prosecutors, meanwhile, have gone after the Johns who post Yelp-style reviews about their massage parlor experiences on online message boards. The Department of Justice said federal sex trafficking legislation enacted last year empowers states to go after problematic sites. It also highlighted recent cases in which federal prosecutors shut down prostitution-related websites and brought charges against their owners, including last year's takedown of the notorious escort listing website Backpage.com.

For former massage parlor sex worker Jasmine Grace Marino, the solution is simple: End the demand for paid sex.

The 38-year-old New Hampshire resident says she was pressured to work at sites in Connecticut and Maine in her 20s by her then-boyfriend, who eventually became her pimp. She walked away after five years, wrote a book about her experience and also runs Bags of Hope, a Boston-based ministry that helps women who have been trafficked or are dealing with addiction or homelessness.

"Men need to have these conversations," Marino said. "Look at Robert Kraft. Even being billionaire and winning all those championships, he's still not satisfied and has to fill the need illegally. Something is broken in there for these men."

Farm loan delinquencies up amid price slump, tariffs

By ROXANA HEGEMAN
Associated Press

WICHITA, Kan. — The nation's farmers are struggling to pay back loans after years of low crop prices and export markets hit by President Donald Trump's tariffs, with a key government program showing the highest default rate in at least nine years.

Many agricultural loans come due around Jan. 1, in part to give producers enough time to sell crops and livestock and to give them more flexibility in timing interest payments for tax filing purposes.

"It is beginning to become a serious situation nationwide at least in the grain crops — those that produce corn, soybeans, wheat," said Allen Featherstone, head of the Department of Agricultural Economics at Kansas State University.

While the federal government shutdown delayed reporting, January figures show an overall rise in delinquencies for those producers with direct loans from the Agriculture Department's Farm Service Agency.

Nationwide, 19.4 percent of FSA direct loans were delinquent in January, compared with 16.5 percent for the same month a year ago, said David Schemm, executive director of the Farm Service Agency in Kansas. During the past nine years, the agency's January delinquency rate hit a high of 18.8 percent in 2011 and fell to a low of 16.1 percent when crop prices were significantly better in 2015.

While those FSA direct loan delinquencies are high, the agency is a lender of last resort for riskier agricultural borrowers who don't qualify for farm's bottom line. Its delinquency rates typically drop in subsequent months as more farmers pay off overdue notes and refinance debt.

With today's low crop prices, it takes high yields to mitigate some of the losses and even a normal harvest or a crop failure can devastate a farm's bottom line. The high delinquency rates are caused by back-to-back years of low prices, with those producers who are in more financial trouble being ones who also had low yields, Featherstone said.

The situation now is not as bad as the farm credit crisis of the 1980s — a time of high interest rates and falling land prices that was marked by widespread farm foreclosures. At the height of that crisis in 1987, U.S. farmers filed 5,788 Chapter 12 bankruptcies. There were 498 in 2018.

Some fears are also surfacing in reports such as one last month from the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, which said the outlook is pessimistic for the start of this year with respondents predicting a further decline in farm income. About 36 percent of farm lenders who responded said they had a lower rate of loan repayment from a year earlier.

Tom Bock, who has borrowed some operating money from his local bank last year and paid it off, Giesel, who raises wheat and corn on some 2,500 acres in western Kansas, said the only thing that kept the farm economy afloat in his area was that people had pretty good fall crop yields. Giesel Bank of Minneapolis, which said point where he didn't have to borrow his working capital and had a relatively new set of equipment, but he has had to borrow money for the last three years just to put in a crop.

"A lot of people are in denial about what is going on, but reality is going to set in or has set in already," Giesel said.

NATION



Huts, holes, heaters and hope

Though later than usual due to mild weather, eager Erie anglers welcome ice fishing season

By RON LEONARDI
Erie Times-News

Luke Soboleski and two friends dragged their equipment-laden sled onto the Misery Bay ice on a recent sunny afternoon, joining about 25 other huts dotting the popular Presque Isle State Park ice fishing spot.

Soboleski, 19, of McKean, and his friends drilled three holes — one for each fisherman — and then used their auger to carve an additional hole in the ice.

Soboleski lowered an underwater camera into it and the three men, including Edinboro University of Pennsylvania students Tyler Waltenbaugh, 22, and Hunter Klobucar, 20, settled into a hut to watch the underwater activity on a monitor.

"I just bought a new camera, you cast it down and it shows if you're over weed beds or what kind of base you're working with — whether it's sand, mud — and what kind of fish you're seeing down there," Soboleski said. "You can also tempt the fish a little bit, so if they're staring at it, you can give them the right motion to indicate a strike. It gives you a little advantage over some of the other fishermen, being able to see what's going on down there."

Their heater kept them toasty warm inside the hut.

"With the heater inside, it gets to 80 degrees," Soboleski said. "You can fish in a T-shirt."

The anglers spent a couple of hours fishing on Misery Bay ice, which measured several inches in depth.

"I fish year-round," Soboleski said. "No matter where I go, I have a pole in my Jeep and I'm ready to fish."

Until recently, he didn't have the option to ice fish. A mild winter meant open water or unsafe conditions until recently.

But a week of sub-freezing temperatures — followed by a deep freeze — were expected to rescue the ice fishing season.

Recently, there have been reports anglers ice fishing near the weed beds at Presque Isle



PHOTOS BY GREG WOHLFORD, ERIE TIMES-NEWS/AP

From left: Luke Soboleski, Hunter Klobucar and Tyler Waltenbaugh sit inside their hut on Misery Bay while ice fishing recently at Presque Isle State Park, shown at top, near Erie, Pa.

State Park, at the park's Marina Lake, Horseshoe Pond and Misery Bay, off of the Chestnut Street access area on the bay, at Eaton Reservoir in North East and Greenfield townships, and at Lake Pleasant in Venango Township.

Soboleski's love for ice fishing helped pique interest in the winter activity with Waltenbaugh, a junior communications major, and Klobucar, a sophomore geology major.

Both students are members of the Edinboro University Flyfishing Club, which formed in 2018.

"This is my first time ice fishing this season," Waltenbaugh said of his weekend trip to Misery Bay. "Now that everything is frozen, it's cool to come out here and do this. Even though this is for little fish like perch and crappie, we don't typically go after them in



Yellow perch caught by members of the Edinboro University Flyfishing Club rest on the ice.

the summer, but it kind of makes it more interesting in the winter."

Ice fishing conditions were decent and improving until heavy rains and temperatures in the high 40s throttled activity.

"Before we had the rain, there were plenty of huts on Horseshoe Pond," said Laura Daniels, owner of Presque Isle Angler Bait &

past week, but I expect that to change real soon. Everybody is excited to get on the ice."

Ice fishing at Presque Isle State Park typically starts during the first week of January. There is usually ice on Misery Bay and at Horseshoe Pond around Christmas. Those areas tend to freeze quicker because they're protected from the winds and are not large bodies of water.

Erie resident Devan Hudson, 24, and his stepson, Aiden Ramey, 13, of Lake City, spent a recent afternoon on Misery Bay. Each started ice fishing a year ago.

"I've been slowly learning and I love it," Hudson said from inside his ice hut. "You're out in the cold, but as long as you have a hut and a Little Buddy heater, you're good."

Nearby, Ramey, a seventh-grade student at Rice Avenue Middle School in Girard, sat on a bucket and intently stared at his line.

"I'm having my time out here and enjoying my time," he said.

Ice fishing can be much more enjoyable when proper safety measures are taken, said Jerry Skrypak, president of the Save Our Native Species of Lake Erie, a fishing advocacy group.

"Never go out alone and always make sure somebody else is around," Skrypak said. "You should always wear a life jacket and use spikes, which are like ice picks. If you fall through the ice, you can use them to climb out."

Skrypak does not advise anglers to venture onto any ice that is less than 6 inches thick. "Some people will go on ice at four inches," he said. "A lot of guys will carry a rope in case someone needs to be rescued. Also, bring a spud bar and use common sense."

Soboleski said additional Misery Bay trips are planned.

"This is what I do," Soboleski said. "I've been fishing since I was three or four."

"I like the type of fishing here — the crappie, the perch — and also there's more solid ice here. A lot of spots aren't frozen yet and I don't feel safe on them. My buddies and I were itching to get out, and Misery Bay is one of the best spots to go early season."

"... Business has been slow the

THE STARS AND STRIPES

Daily Newspaper of U.S. Armed Forces

in the European Theater of Operations

Vol. 1—No. 241

1 Fr.

1 Fr.

Sunday, March 25, 1945

For the troops

Stars and Stripes was a primary source of news for the troops at the Front and behind the lines in World War II. Although it printed only in the European theater during the war, it covered news from all theaters.



Support the Mission

Subscribe at [Stripes.com/digital](https://www.strips.com/digital) or email MemberServices@stripes.com to donate a subscription.

WORLD

Pakistan pledges to free captured Indian jet pilot

By MUNIR AHMED
and KATHY GANNON
Associated Press

ISLAMABAD — Pakistan's prime minister pledged on Thursday his country would release a captured Indian fighter jet pilot the following day, a move that could help defuse the most serious confrontation in two decades between the nuclear-armed neighbors over the disputed region of Kashmir.

Prime Minister Imran Khan made the announcement in an address to both houses of Parliament, saying he tried to reach his Indian counterpart, Narendra Modi, on Wednesday with a message that he wants to de-escalate tensions.

"We are releasing the Indian pilot as a goodwill gesture tomorrow," Khan told lawmakers. He did not say whether the release was conditional.

An Indian government official, speaking on condition of anonymity as he was not authorized to speak publicly, warned that even if the pilot is returned home, New Delhi would not hesitate to strike its neighbor first if it feared a similar militant attack was looming. Modi earlier in the day warned that India's enemies are conspiring to create instability in the country through terror attacks.

Khan also said that he had feared Wednesday night that India might launch a missile attack, but the situation was later defused. He did not elaborate.

"Pakistan wants peace, but it should not be treated as our weakness," Khan said. "The region will prosper if there is peace and stability. It is good for both sides."

Meanwhile, fresh skirmishes erupted Thursday between Indian and Pakistani soldiers along the so-called Line of Control



SARAH LALIT/AP

A group of Danish students had to stay overnight Thursday at Suvarnabhumi Airport in Bangkok, Thailand, when they were unable to board a connecting flight due to a temporary closure of air space over Pakistan following a confrontation with India.

that divides disputed Kashmir between the two nuclear-armed rivals.

India's army said Pakistani soldiers were targeting nearly two dozen Indian forward points with mortar and gunfire. Lt. Col. Devender Anand, an Indian army spokesman, called it an "unprovoked" violation of the 2003 cease-fire accord between the two countries. He said Indian soldiers were responding to ongoing Pakistani attacks along the highly militarized de facto frontier.

World powers have called on the nations to de-escalate the tensions gripping the contested region since a Feb. 14 suicide bombing killed more than 40 Indian paramilitary troops in Indian-controlled Kashmir.

India responded with a pre-dawn airstrike Tuesday inside Pakistan, the first such raid since the two nations' 1971 war

over territory that later became Bangladesh.

The situation escalated further with Wednesday's aerial skirmish, which saw Pakistan say it shot down two Indian aircraft, one of which crashed in a Pakistan-held part of Kashmir and the other in India-controlled Kashmir. Pakistan later aired a video of a man it identified as the Indian pilot.

India acknowledged one of its MiG-21s, a Soviet-era fighter jet, was "lost" in skirmishes with Pakistan. India's Ministry of External Affairs said late Wednesday that it "strongly objected to Pakistan's vulgar display of an injured personnel of the Indian Air Force," and that it expects his immediate and safe return.

India also said it shot down a Pakistani warplane, something Islamabad denied.

Indictment of Israeli leader recommended

Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Israel's attorney general on Thursday recommended indicting Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for bribery and breach of trust in a series of corruption cases, a momentous move that shook up Israel's election campaign and could spell the end of the prime minister's illustrious political career.

Attorney General Avichai Mandelblit announced his decision after more than two years of intense investigations and deliberations.

Police had recommended indicting Netanyahu for bribery, fraud and breach of trust in three different cases that ranged from accepting expensive gifts from wealthy allies to allegedly trad-

ing influence for more favorable press coverage.

"The attorney general has reached his decision after thoroughly examining the evidence," his statement said.

The final decision on indictment will take place only after a hearing, where Netanyahu will be given the opportunity to defend himself. That process is expected to take many months and be completed long after the April 9 elections. But the recommendations immediately cast a cloud over the campaign and Netanyahu's future.

An indictment would mark the first time in Israeli history that a sitting prime minister has been charged with a crime. Former Prime Minister Ehud Olmert served time in prison for corrup-

tion, but had already resigned by the time he was charged.

Netanyahu doesn't look to go that quietly. He denies any wrongdoing and calls the various allegations a media-orchestrated witch hunt aimed at removing him from office. He has vowed to carry on and is deadlocked in the polls, 40 days before Israelis go to vote.

Despite opposition calls for the prime minister to step down, Netanyahu's Likud party and his other nationalist coalition partners have lined up behind him thus far, all but ruling out sitting in a government led by his primary opponent, retired military chief Benny Gantz.



Multimedia Sales Manager, NF-04 (World Wide)
- US Citizens and Non-Citizens
Salary \$50,000 - \$70,000 per year



Stars and Stripes is looking for an employee to work out of our Tokyo Japan office. If selected for this NF-04 position you will be responsible for the development and performance of all sales activities in the assigned market. If you have previous supervisory experience and you have experience with revenue management then this is the opportunity you have been waiting for. Ability to speak conversational Japanese is a plus but not required.

<https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/522721200>

Supervisory Interactive Media Specialist, NF-04
(Local Japan) - US Citizens and Non-Citizens
Salary \$50,000 - \$69,000 per year



Stars and Stripes is looking for an employee to work out of our Tokyo Japan office. If selected for this NF-04 position you will be responsible for providing graphics and multimedia technical support to assist in developing, coordinating and implementing a comprehensive graphic design package for external and internal customers. If you have previous supervisory experience and you have experience working with Adobe Creative Cloud Suite: Illustrator, Photoshop, Dreamweaver, HTML & Flash scripts, then please apply for this exciting opportunity. Ability to speak conversational Japanese is a plus but not required.

<https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/513273900>

Multimedia Consultant, NF-04 (Local Okinawa)
- US Citizens and Non-Citizens
Salary \$35,900 - \$7,300 plus commissions per year



Stars and Stripes is looking for an employee to work out of our Okinawa office. If selected for this NF-04 position you will be responsible for providing client program solutions by mixing appropriate amounts of newspaper print, web and other digital applications, special magazines, inserts, commercial print, circulation, events and other promotions that fit within the client's budget. If you have three years of related experience or a bachelor's degree in marketing, advertising or related discipline AND one year of experience, then this golden opportunity could be yours. Ability to speak conversational Japanese is a strong plus but not required.

<https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/521852500>

All "DMA/Stars and Stripes" job announcements listed here!



<https://www.usajobs.gov/Search?z=DD80>

WORLD

Pompeo: US worried over Chinese moves threatening navigation

By JIM GOMEZ
Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Thursday he would discuss U.S. concerns about Chinese actions that threaten freedom of navigation in the disputed South China Sea with Philippine officials during an overnight visit to Manila.

Pompeo arrived late Thursday and immediately met with President Rodrigo Duterte at an air base. He discussed with Duterte unsuccessful talks between President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in Hanoi, Vietnam, which he also attended.

"We're worried that the Chinese are using their power in ways that will deny freedom of navigation in the region, and that's important to every country in Asia, and Philippines included," Pompeo told reporters as he flew to Manila from Hanoi.

When asked if the U.S. was concerned about China's actions, Pompeo replied "absolutely," adding that Washington has a national security strategy to address the problem.

The long-seething territorial disputes are a key irritant between Washington and Beijing, which has turned several disputed barren reefs into islands with runways and other military facilities.

In addition to China, the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Taiwan and Brunei also claim ownership of the strategic waters, where U.S. Navy ships have sailed close to Chinese-occupied islands to assert freedom of navigation.

Philippine Ambassador to



BULLIT MARQUEZ/AP

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte, left, greets U.S. State Secretary Mike Pompeo at Villamor Air Base southeast of Manila, Philippines, on Thursday.

Washington Jose Romualdez said by telephone that a proposed move to re-examine the 1951 Mutual Defense Treaty between Washington and Manila was also expected to be discussed during Pompeo's meetings with Philippine officials.

Romualdez said the Philippines has sought a review of the 1951 treaty, which calls on the allies to come to each other's defense against an external attack, to update it. An initial meeting between Philippine Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana and a Pentagon official will be held next month in Manila before formal talks begin, he said.

In the past, Filipino officials have tried to clarify whether the Philippines could invoke the treaty to seek U.S. help in case of an attack in the South China Sea.

"This is a long-standing, deep relationship between our countries and I hope to go build on that with my counterpart Teodoro Locsin and President Duterte," Pompeo told reporters.

China denies military presence in Afghanistan

Associated Press

BEIJING — China's Defense Ministry defended military cooperation with Tajikistan on Thursday following a report of a sizable Chinese troop presence at a base in the Central Asian state.

Ministry spokesman Ren Guoqiang told reporters at a monthly briefing that cooperation between the two was "in line with" international law and related resolutions passed by the United Nations Security Council.

"This cooperation benefits the two countries, their two militaries and regional peace and stability," Ren said.

However, Ren said there was no Chinese presence in the adjacent Wakhan Corridor belonging to Afghanistan, in line with ear-

lier denials of any plans to deploy troops to the war-torn nation with which it shares a narrow border.

Despite the denials of Chinese military activity in the area, unconfirmed reports have shown what appear to be Chinese military vehicles operating in the corridor, which lies in the shadow of the Hindu Kush mountains with Tajikistan to the north and Pakistan to the south.

China had apparently sought to keep its Tajikistan base manned by members of the paramilitary People's Armed Police a secret. However, The Washington Post in February reported on the sizable Chinese military complex firsthand, although it remains unclear what the troops' mission is and Ren provided no details.

POPEYES MARDI GRAS SPECIAL

FEB. 26th - MAR. 12th (FAT TUESDAY)

10

PCS MIXED*

2 LG SIDES • 6 BISCUITS
1 GALLON TEA

\$23.99

EXCHANGE

Purchase limits may apply. Offer valid at participating Army and Air Force Exchange locations only. Limited time only. *Bread substitution upcharge may apply. TM & © 2019 Popeyes Louisiana Kitchen, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

OPERATION TOMODACHI

THE GREAT EAST JAPAN EARTHQUAKE

Now only \$2

STARS AND STRIPES

Special offer!

Contact us at:
CustomerHelp@Stripes.com

This offer is only available in
Mainland Japan, Okinawa,
and South Korea.

A DOCUMENTATION OF THE U.S. FORCES' RELIEF EFFORTS.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP



ELAINE THOMPSON/AP

Scenic sailing

A sailboat heads out into Puget Sound as the Olympic Mountains behind are seen covered in a fresh coating of snow in Seattle.

Zookeeper hurt when rhino strikes her

FL JACKSONVILLE — A female zookeeper in Florida was seriously injured when a rhinoceros struck her.

Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens Executive Director Tony Vecchio said the zookeeper was hurt by the rhino's horn during a "routine training session" Tuesday morning. Tom Francis, with the Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department, said she was taken to the hospital with serious injuries. Vecchio said Archie the rhino, who is 50, remained in his enclosure and the public was never in danger. Zoo officials said they will investigate the incident.

Man arrested in theft of kids' instruments

NC ASHEVILLE — Police in North Carolina arrested a man they allege stole several brass instruments from the Salvation Army Boys & Girls Club more than 1½ years ago, essentially placing the music program on hiatus.

Citing arrest warrants, The Asheville Citizen-Times reported that Alton Ferguson, 56, allegedly stole and pawned two horns, two euphoniums, two trombones, a custom-class trumpet and a cornet, worth a total of several thousand dollars.

The club's executive director, James Lee III, said security-camera video showed the then-janitorial contract worker carrying instruments out of their closet on three trips in 2017. Ferguson was arrested Saturday.

Lee said most of the instru-

ments are still missing or being held as evidence, which means the kids' music program can't resume.

Woman, police: Driver caused her to flip car

GA ATLANTA — A woman and police both said a driver with road rage caused her to flip her car as she was trying to get on a highway in the Atlanta area.

Hilary Dickinson said she suffered bruising on her leg and a seat belt burn on her neck after her car landed on its roof Feb. 22. Dickinson told WSB-TV she heard the woman behind her laying on her horn as she was waiting to turn onto Interstate 85. She and a DeKalb County police report said the woman followed her, sped around her and then braked in front of her.

Dickinson swerved, but overcorrected. The woman drove away as Dickinson's car rolled several times.

Bobcat recovering after being hit by police car

CA LAKE FOREST — Officials said a bobcat is recovering after being struck by a police car on a canyon road in Southern California.

Laguna Beach Police Officer Thomas McGuire told the Orange County Register he initially thought he'd hit someone's pet when the cat darted in front of his vehicle Feb. 19. McGuire said when he got out to check, he realized the animal was bigger than a house cat.

Animal Control officers rushed

THE CENSUS

171

The speed, in miles per hour, of a wind gust atop New Hampshire's Mount

Washington on Monday that meteorologists say set a record. The previous February wind record, 166 mph, was set in 1972. Mount Washington Observatory meteorologist Tom Padham said the wind was equal to a Category 5 hurricane. The snow-covered summit is shown at right in 2015.

the bleeding bobcat to an animal hospital, where it was diagnosed with head trauma. Dr. Kristi Krause, a veterinarian, told the newspaper she expects the 11-pound cat to be released back into the wild after it regains strength.

McGuire visited the bobcat last week. He joked that if he sees it again, he'll issue a ticket for jaywalking.

3 accused of taking LSU vehicle for joyride

LA BATON ROUGE — Louisiana State University police said three men stole a John Deere utility vehicle from the football locker room and took it for an early morning joyride.

Citing an arrest report, The Advocate reported security video from early Sunday showed the three men driving the vehicle on campus. When stopped, the men refused to tell police where they got the vehicle. The Gator XUV is valued at more than \$10,000.

After agreeing to a field sobriety test, Daryl Lally, 21, was charged with driving while intoxicated. Lally; Tyler Jones, 22; and



Robert Nicklas, 22, are charged with theft of a motor vehicle.

Plane used by LBJ may one day be restored

GA WARNER ROBINS — There are plans to one day restore a dusty jet in a Georgia hangar — a jet that served as Air Force One during critical moments of U.S. history.

The Telegraph reported the blue-and-white airplane is housed in the back of a hangar at the Museum of Aviation in Warner Robins. The Lockheed VC-140B Jetstar carried President Lyndon B. Johnson on short trips while he was in office from 1963 to 1969.

The plane often took Johnson to his Texas ranch, since it could land on the short runway there. Museum curator Mike Rowland said Johnson flew on it hundreds of times.

2 donkeys found killed on Louisville farm

KY LOUISVILLE — Officials in Kentucky

said two donkeys were mauled to death on a farm in Louisville about 5 miles from where eight llamas were killed.

Louisville Metro Animal Services told news outlets that they don't know if the attacks are related.

The donkeys were found dead in a field Sunday, less than a week after the llamas were found dead with bite marks behind their ears and by their flanks.

Louisville Metro Animal Services said the llamas' wounds appeared "canine in nature." Spokeswoman Teeya Barnes said the donkeys suffered wounds that suggest a possible attack by a wild animal.

Sheriff: Attack on vet's dog leads to loss of tail

FL SATELLITE BEACH — A Florida man is accused of felony cruelty to animals for an attack on a service dog that resulted in the amputation of its tail.

Brevard County Sheriff Wayne Ivey said in a Facebook post that he personally walked James Cordell Doughy Suthann into jail following his arrest Monday.

The incident occurred Feb. 6 at a grooming salon where Suthann worked. Ivey said Suthann was angry that an 8-year-old German shepherd service dog wouldn't stand during the amputation.

Video captured him grabbing the dog's tail while swinging the animal off the ground and twisting the tail. Emergency surgery was required.

The dog is owned by a disabled veteran.

From wire reports

STARS STRIPES®

Unlimited Digital Access

INTRO OFFER!

FOUR WEEKS Web + Mobile

ONLY
99¢

When you subscribe to Stripes Digital Access...

Get exclusive access to innovative digital features, interactive articles, award-winning photography and more. Enjoy unlimited access to the Stripes.com website and our Stars and Stripes mobile apps, all for a low monthly or annual subscription.



Stars and Stripes content features

- Access to Stars and Stripes mobile apps
- Exclusive reports on military matters
- Coverage of all military branches
- Special features on current issues
- Veterans topics
- Retrospectives such as Vietnam at 50
- Archive Photo of the Day
- Unbiased, First Amendment protected reporting from U.S. military bases around the world.

Subscribe Today!



stripes.com/subscribe

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Walmart move to drop greeters draws backlash

By MICHAEL RUBINKAM
Associated Press

As Walmart moves to phase out its familiar blue-vested "greeters" at some 1,000 stores nationwide, disabled workers who fill many of those jobs say they're being ill-treated by a chain that styles itself as community-minded and inclusive.

Walmart told greeters around the country last week that their positions would be eliminated on April 26 in favor of an expanded, more physically demanding "customer host" role. To qualify, they will need to be able to lift 25-pound packages, climb ladders and stand for long periods.

That came as a heavy blow to greeters with cerebral palsy, spina bifida and other physical disabilities. For them, a job at Walmart has provided needed income, served as a source of pride and offered a connection to the community.

Now Walmart, America's largest private employer, is facing a backlash as customers rally around some of the chain's most visible and beloved employees.

Walmart says it is striving to place greeters in other jobs at the company, but workers with disabilities are worried.

Donny Fagnano, 56, who has



RACHEL WASSER/AP

Greeter John Combs works at a Walmart in Vancouver, Wash., on April 21, 2018.

worked at Walmart for more than 21 years, said he cried when a manager at the store in Lewisburg, Pa., called him into the office last week and told him his job was going away.

"I like working," he said. "It's better than sitting at home." Fagnano, who has spina bifida, said he was offered a severance package. He hopes to stay on at Walmart and clean bathrooms instead.

Walmart greeters have been around for decades, allowing the

retail giant to put a friendly face at the front of its stores. Then, in 2016, Walmart began replacing greeters with hosts, with responsibilities that include not only welcoming customers but helping with returns, checking receipts to deter shoplifters and keeping the front of the store clean.

Walmart and other chains have been redefining roles at stores as they compete with Amazon.

The effect of the greeter phase-out on disabled and elderly employees — who have traditionally gravitated toward the role as one they were well-suited to doing — largely escaped public notice until last week when Walmart launched a second round of cuts.

As word spread, first on social media and then in local and national news outlets, outraged customers began calling Walmart to complain. Tens of thousands of people signed petitions. Facebook groups sprang up with names like "Team Adam" and "Save Lesley."

In Vancouver, Wash., John Combs, 42, who has cerebral palsy, was devastated and then angered by his impending job loss. It had taken his family five years to find him a job he could do, and he loved the work, coming up with nicknames for all his co-workers.

"What am I going to do, just sit here on my butt all day in this house? That's all I'm going to do?" Combs asked his sister and guardian, Rachel Wasser.

With the U.S. unemployment rate for disabled people more than twice that for workers without disabilities, Walmart has long been seen as a destination for people like Combs. Advocacy groups worry the company is backsliding.

The greeter issue has already prompted at least three complaints to the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, as well as a federal lawsuit in Utah alleging discrimination under the Americans with Disabilities Act. Under the federal law, employers must provide "reasonable" accommodations to workers with disabilities.

Walmart did not disclose how many disabled greeters could lose their jobs. The company said that after it made the change at more than 1,000 stores in 2016, 80 to 85 percent of all affected greeters found other roles at Walmart. It did not reveal how many of them were disabled.

Last week, Walmart told greeters they would have the customary 60 days to land other jobs at the company. Amid the uproar,

the company has extended the deadline indefinitely for greeters with disabilities.

"We recognize that our associates with physical disabilities face a unique situation," Walmart spokesman Justin Rushing said in a statement. The extra time, he said, will give Walmart a chance to explore how to accommodate such employees.

Walmart said it has already made offers to some greeters, including those with physical disabilities, and expects to continue doing so in the coming weeks.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (March 1)	\$1.1686
Dollar buys (March 1)	€0.8557
British pound (March 1)	\$1.36
Japanese yen (March 1)	108.00
South Korean won (March 1)	1,091.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (dinar)	0.3769
British pound	\$1.3298
Canada (dollar)	1.3812
China (yuan)	6.6801
Denmark (krone)	6.5544
Egypt (pound)	17.5425
Euro	\$1.1383/0.8785
Hong Kong (dollar)	7.8502
Hungary (forint)	277.47
Israel (shekel)	3.6229
Japan (yen)	111.26
Kuwait (dinar)	0.3037
Norway (krone)	8.5515
Philippines (peso)	51.75
Poland (zloty)	3.78
Saudi (riyal)	3.7500
Singapore (dollar)	1.3502
South Korea (won)	1,124.57
Switzerland (franc)	0.9966
Thailand (baht)	31.55
Turkey (lira)	5.3233

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom for nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	5.50
Discount rate	3.00
Federal funds market rate	4.40
3-month bill	2.39
30-year bond	3.07

EUROPE GAS PRICES

Country	Super E10	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Germany	\$2.656	\$3.005	\$3.264	\$3.314
Change in price	+7.3 cents	+6.1 cents	+5.8 cents	+4.2 cents
Netherlands	--	\$3.426	\$3.581	\$3.791
Change in price	--	+6.9 cents	+7.3 cents	+2.2 cents
U.K.	--	\$2.939	\$3.198	\$3.248
Change in price	--	+5.1 cents	+5.8 cents	+4.2 cents
Azores	--	--	\$3.185	--
Change in price	--	--	+5.8 cents	--
Belgium	--	\$2.614	\$2.832	\$3.137
Change in price	--	No change	No change	No change
Turkey	--	--	\$3.081	\$3.131*
Change in price	--	--	+5.8 cents	+4.2 cents

PACIFIC GAS PRICES

Country	Unleaded	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Japan	--	\$3.049	--	\$3.099
Change in price	--	+6.0 cents	--	+4.0 cents
Okhawa	\$2.439	--	--	\$3.099
Change in price	+7.0 cents	--	--	+4.0 cents
South Korea	\$2.479	--	\$3.089	\$3.089
Change in price	+8.0 cents	--	+5.0 cents	--
Guam	\$2.459**	\$2.809	\$3.069	--
Change in price	+7.0 cents	+5.0 cents	+3.0 cents	--

* Diesel EFD ** Midgrade
For the week of March 1-7

MARKET WATCH

Feb. 27, 2019

Dow Jones **-72.82**

Industrials 25,985.16

Nasdaq **5.21**

composite 7,554.51

Standard & Poor's 500 **-1.52**

2,792.38

Russell **3.57**

2000 1,581.05

WEATHER OUTLOOK



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

WEEKLY

GARY CLARK JR.

stakes his claim

Music, Page 24

WEEKEND: GADGETS



DREAMSTIME/TNS

An airport chatbot might answer questions about what gate a flight is leaving from, and if it's delayed.

The future of travel tech

Summit shows off search engines, helpful chatbots

By ROB WILE
Miami Herald

Imagine a travel search engine so smart it can find you a hotel based on your kids' favorite activities.

Or an app that finds you a better hotel rate just by reading your receipt.

Or a bot that answers personalized travel questions, like where your departure gate is located.

Travelers will soon find all these features online — and in some cases, already can — as attendees of the second Future of Travel Tech Summit, hosted by LAB Miami Ventures at The Historic Lyric Theater, learned recently. More than 400 registered participants, as well as representatives from some of the biggest brands and investors in the travel tech space, took part.

"This sector is incredibly international and Miami is becoming an important hub to bring everyone together," said LAB Miami Ventures CEO Tigre Wenrich.

Wenrich observed that many of the technologies coming online are being pitched to enterprises — though they'll still have instant benefits for consumers.

For the summit startup pitch competition's five official judges, the favorite was Destygo, a French company that has built a chatbot that answers simple questions about the destination they're visiting.

Think of it as a hyper-local Google. As CTO and co-founder Pierre Pakey put it, "A lot of people have stupid questions about the destination they want to bother a human with."

For example, Destygo can build a chatbot for an airport that answers questions about what gate a passenger's flight is leaving from, and whether it's delayed. Its bot has already been put to use by airports in Paris and Lyon, as well as operations for Disneyland Paris, Accor Hotels and Carlson Wagonlit Travel.

Dave Harris, vice president of digital strategy at Carnival Cruise Line, said the best idea he saw came from another French company, Adrenaline Hunter, a web portal that allows travelers to find and book adventure activities worldwide in advance.

Harris said that, for years, companies have attempted to find ways to aggregate micro-businesses — think the guy on the beach who runs a parasailing outfit — onto a single platform.

Adrenaline Hunter, he said, appears to be the one to do it.

"It's hard to go to a source you trust for that type of thing," he said. "If they can take that power as a collective and provide something like Yelp, they will succeed."

If brand trust is what every company hopes for, few founders are willing to bank their own name on it. Barb Parshall, a former programmer on Wall Street and travel junkie, is betting she can. One day, she simply was fed up with trying to find the perfect hotel on existing search engines, so decided to build her own, called Baarb. Travelers can type in preferences such as favorite type of music or a child's favorite fantasy series, and Baarb will select a tailored hotel or resort.

For summit-goer Claudia Ojeda, a Miami-based principal at Boston Consulting Group, the trend toward curated and unique experiences — rather than the same old sightseeing trip — will allow companies such as Baarb to thrive.

"People want something distinctive, or even experimental," she said.

There were plenty of ideas for consumers. If you've had the sneaking suspicion after booking a hotel room that you've paid too much, you may be right.

According to CNET, the chance your room rate will drop after you've booked it is about 40 percent. Plus, if there's a free cancellation option, you can rebook at the lower rate.

The scenario helped propel Israel-based Pruvo to the People's Choice winner at the summit's startup pitch competition, which featured nine travel tech companies from around the globe. Pruvo has set up an email address, save@pruvo.com, where you send your booked hotel rate. Pruvo then feeds the information into an algorithm that scans a host of other booking sites for a better price, and notifies you when it's found one.

Of course, buyers aren't the only ones looking for the right price. BeyondPricing feeds pricing data about properties into an algorithm so that vacation property managers never have to think about how much they should be charging for their space.

Douglas Skoke, a summit-goer and co-founder of Coral Gables-based Benjamin Skoke consulting, said the idea represented an ideal product market fit: applying technology to a niche market that desperately needs an update.

"If you're not sure completely where to price, they give you the optimal pricing based on their algos," he said, referring to algorithms.

GADGET WATCH

Cooker takes pressure off of food preparation

By GREGG ELLMAN
Tribune News Service

It doesn't charge, it's really portable and doesn't have a USB port. That makes it an odd choice for a column about electronic gadgets, but I still put the Gourmia 13-in-1 pressure cooker on my highly recommended list.

I'm not much for cooking, but I'm lucky to have a wife who is an outstanding cook.

We had never used a pressure cooker, but heard friends talk about them and constantly see them used and promoted on TV. So today is our turn to tout one. The tabletop Gourmia (12.95-by-13.78-by-12.4 inches) did everything as advertised in lighting-fast time to cook us an awesome meal.

I did a little advance reading and found that this unit takes pressure-cooker safety, speed, convenience and control very seriously. It's built with an adjustable timer and a secure lock lid ensuring stress-free and safe opening when the internal pressure reaches appropriate levels. While it's cooking, an auto-stir function moves the food, all with the lid on tight.

An included cookbook provides some recipe options, and an online search produced endless choices. We chose Caribbean chicken with rice from the Food Network.

It didn't take long to chop the vegetables; we used the saute setting for the garlic and peppers for 3 minutes. Then inside the 6-quart pot, we added rice and water. The supplied rack went over the rice to hold the chicken above that. The lid then locks in place. We set it to high pressure for one minute and the pot heats up, cooks and depressurizes.

The whole process was about 15 minutes of cooking with just 1 of those minutes for high pressure cooking.

Final results: super easy and really good. The chicken was moist and the rice was cooked to perfection.

Later that night I was talking with a friend of mine in Chicago who is an outstanding cook, and when I told him about the pressure cooker and sent him a picture of my meal and

the 1-minute cooking time, his response was "Looks good! One minute?"

Yep, just 1 minute. I bet he gets a pressure cooker before long.

As for the standard AC-powered pressure cooker, it's described by Gourmia as "The first and only pressure cooker that comes with 'Automatic Pressure Release Technology,' which safely releases steam upon cooking completion or with the touch of a button."

It features an easy-to-clean, dishwasher-safe, nonstick 6-quart stainless steel liner and an adjustable PSI that can be set from 1.5 to 12 psi.

The pressure cooker boasts a huge variety of 13 easy cooking modes, including rice, which we added to our initial meal; soup; stew; yogurt; and keeping meals warm.

It can also slow cook, saute/brown and steam to perform the tasks of many other kitchen gadgets.

With 1,000 watts of speed-sense technology, cooking time is slashed by as much as 70 percent, while it retains all the flavor your recipe promises.

Online: gourmia.com; \$199.99

Many people, including myself, hope for one charging system with a single cable connection that can charge any portable powered gadget. At this point it's wishful thinking with USB-A, micro, Apple Lightning and now USB-C powering into our life.

There's no avoiding the need for power, so we are pretty much forced to adapt and carry cables for all of them. That's where the new **Coal Catalyst portable charger** comes in, with its three-headed adapter cable.

A strong braided and fast-charging 22/28 gauge cable has a standard USB-A connection on one end and a triple on the other. It includes a Lightning for Apple users, USB-C for Androids and newer Apple products and a microUSB for just about everything else.

The USB-C 12000mAh charging **Coal** makes the battery system complete with three charging ports; USB Output1: 5V 1A, USB Output2: 5V 2.1A and Type C Output: 5V 3A. For input charging, Type C Input: 5V 2A.

The charger features Qualcomm Quick Charge 3.0 and INOV technology for optimal voltage.

Online: coalpower, inc; \$55 for 12000mAh, \$45 for 8000mAh



The tabletop Gourmia features an easy-to-clean, dishwasher-safe, nonstick 6-quart stainless steel liner and adjustable pressure settings.

GOURMIA/TNS

WEEKEND

CHECK IT OUT

Events, entertainment and other ways to fill your free time

Time to plan the week's TV watching

1 You've probably read it many times, but here it is again: Television has no season. March once meant a sea of reruns after a month of sweeps. But a peek at the listings shows AFN awash with new and returning programs. Here's just a handful of the shows and special features coming this week.



Netflix



TNT



FOX

'House of Cards'

Robin Wright's Claire Underwood holds center stage as the show soldiers on without Kevin Spacey, fired after sexual misconduct allegations arose.

- 'House of Cards' premieres Sunday on AFN-Spectrum.

'I Am the Night'

This miniseries starring India Eisley and Chris Pine brings a new angle to the Black Dahlia mystery. Patty Jenkins ("Wonder Woman") directs.

- 'I Am the Night' premieres Sunday on AFN-Spectrum.

'American Idol'

Yes, some version of the show has been around forever, but watching golden-voiced young adults go from obscurity to stardom still holds a thrill.

- 'American Idol' premieres Monday on AFN-Spectrum.



History



NBC



Lifetime

'Project Blue Book'

This new scripted series from the History Channel follows real, declassified government reports to examine claims of UFO encounters.

- Series premieres Wednesday on AFN-Spectrum.

'Good Girls'

This new drama about suburban moms who rob a supermarket is described as a mix between "Thelma & Louise" and "Breaking Bad."

- Series premieres Wednesday on AFN-Spectrum.

'Surviving R. Kelly'

The numerous testimonies in the six-part series claiming that the musician pursued and abused young teens is hard to watch, but important to hear.

- Series premieres Wednesday on AFN-Pulse.

2

Videos show Gary Clark Jr. then, now

Two videos neatly bookend musician Gary Clark Jr.'s still-rising career: an acoustic appearance on a rooftop in Austin, Texas, during South by Southwest in 2003; and his recently released "This Land" video. One is from a newscast and has about 450 clicks; one is a big-budget, highly polished production 16 years later that has more than 2 million. The contrast is striking, but in both videos, the talent is undeniable.

- Clark Jr. news clip from 2003: youtu.be/6_7jKsXnG1Y
- Clark Jr.'s 'This Land' video: youtu.be/9KgNaRQ_J-c



Clark Jr.

3

Groban pokes fun at wedding receptions

Musician and actor Josh Groban was known early on for his serious, operatic vocals, but he likes to have fun as well. Groban and late-night host Jimmy Kimmel playfully introduced a new Groban album called "Josh't Married," "specifically for those about to tie the knot." It's modeled after one of those commercials where a singer performs on a darkened stage while song titles scroll up the screen. The song names include "We Told You Not to Bring Your Kids," "We Really Underestimated the Desire for Shrimp" and "Your Boss Is Trashed." Sadly, the album isn't real, and isn't for sale — if it were, we'd have purchased it by now.

- See it at tinyurl.com/yydpn2yw



Groban

WEEKEND: MUSIC



HIS LAND

Gary Clark Jr. stakes his claim and makes his promise on 'This Land'

By PETER BLACKSTOCK
Austin American-Statesman

*"Well no no
I won't stop now
Well no no
You can't stop me now
I'm gonna rise to the top
You can't hold me down."*

It's hanging out there as a long-forgotten artifact: a brief clip of 19-year-old Gary Clark Jr. playing solo acoustic on the rooftop of Channel 8 in Austin, Texas, during South by Southwest in 2003. Clark's most-watched YouTube videos pass the 10 million mark; this one has just a few hundred views. But in two minutes, it captures Clark's essence almost perfectly: a gifted player and singer who's soft-spoken and kind, yet determined and undeterred.

The song he performs, "Worry No More," was the title track from his 2001 debut album. "I guess we could say local blues phenomenon," rooftop host Andy Langer suggests in a brief introduction, asking Clark what he'll do to stand out at what was his first SXSW gig. "I'm not going to change anything too much," Clark responds. "Just do a normal set, and hopefully it'll turn some heads."

Fast-forward 16 years. The day after Clark's 35th birthday, he's on TV again, but this time the viewership is in the millions. He's on NBC's "Saturday Night Live" to play two songs from "This Land," Clark's third studio album for Warner Bros. Records.

He saves the blistering title track for last, carefully steering around the words that won't fly on a network broadcast but keeping the song's forceful pushback against racism intact. The surprise is that Clark leads with "Pearl Cadillac," singing in a sweetly soulful falsetto about the parents who raised him in Austin.

"I'm searching for some kind of way to pay y'all, 'For your love, your love, your love,'" Clark reaches out, before letting his guitar find the feelings for him in a blazing, uplifting solo. At the end, he brings it back around with a heartfelt sentiment — "You say I owe you nothing, but if I could I'd give you the world."

As the song ends, he adds an off-mic "Hi Mom," glancing toward the studio audience. Gary Clark Jr. has arrived, and he's brought the family.

RELEASED FEB. 22, "This Land" is a grand statement for Clark, a 16-track, 66-minute opus that builds upon his previous work but also rockets toward parts unknown. The classic blues that launched Clark out of the community centered around the storied Austin club Antone's in his teenage years remains a foundation, but "This Land" is far broader in its ambitions.

The title track, with a striking video that's already tallied nearly 2 million YouTube views, has gotten most of the attention so far, and for good reason. The N-words and F-bombs in the unedited version aren't gratuitous, but rather an essential part of the song's emotion and substance. An encounter at his home outside of Austin motivated Clark to address racism head-on.

That's just the starting point for an album that consistently pushes Clark's boundaries onward, as if to declare, "Hey, I can be whatever I choose to be." The densely packed sonic wall of "What About Us" mixes bits of anthemic rock, hard-hitting hip-hop and furious funk into something ultimately uncategorizable. The island groove to "Feeling Like a Million" reveals the clear influence of reggae on Clark's musical outlook, while the blitzkrieg charge of "Gotta Get Into Something" indicates he's done time with plenty of punk records, too. "When I'm Gone" mainlines a classic R&B vein, coaxing Clark's most melodically rich vocal performance on an album where he sometimes sounds like several distinctly different singers.

"I think this all goes together," Clark says as we discuss the record in late January at his home base of Antone's, of which Clark is now part-owner. "My platform was the blues, but I just had piles and piles of records and demos that were from this other world of music that I didn't want to show anybody, because I felt like I couldn't necessarily do that onstage at Antone's."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 25

Pigeonholed as a bluesman early in his career, Gary Clark Jr. defies categorization and wades into American race relations on his third major-label album, "This Land."

Courtesy of Warner Bros. Records

WEEKEND: MUSIC

FROM PAGE 24

Clark smiles when he recalls the last time he saw the late Clifford Antone, founder of the club that bears his name. Clark was onstage playing an adventurous tune that was “on the verge of breaking out. And he walks up to me and goes, ‘Play Jimmy Reed!’ So I felt that pressure, in my young life, to do that.”

“But as you get older and you start to see it’s not just about you and your little world, I just branched off and did other things,” he continues.

One thing that becomes apparent in conversation with Clark is that he’s quick to credit everyone who has been part of his success. This goes double for all the Austin musicians who played a part in bursting Clark’s perspective as an artist wide open.

“Since 1998 I’ve been running around up and down these streets, and I’m seeing everything,” he says, stressing that last word. “I had a chance to jam onstage with Bavu Blakes, D-Madness, Ephraim Owens, Warren Hood. I used to open up for Jon Dee Graham and James McMurtry, so I would hear songwriting and Americana music, and Alejandro Escovedo. Of course, all the blues guys were around. Alan Haynes, Derek O’Brien, Miss Lavelle White. I soaked all this stuff up, and I’d go back and take all these records and just learn it all.”

ANOTHER ROLL CALL comes later, when we’re discussing Clark’s part in the 2018 reopening of Antone’s. A few days before his trip to New York for “Saturday Night Live,” Clark played a triumphant set at the downtown club for a couple hundred of his closest friends and some lucky fans who won tickets. It’s clearly a special place for Clark.

“Jimmie Vaughan saw me at Antone’s,” he begins. “I saw Doug Sahm, I saw Buddy Guy and Bobby Blue Bland. Pinetop Perkins, James Cotton, Willie Big Eyes Smith, George Rains, Riley Osbourne, Roscoe Beck, Brannen Temple, Ruthie Foster, W.C. Clark, Carolyn Wonderland, and even Bob Schneider and people you wouldn’t expect. In one way or another, all these people affected my life in a way where doors have opened up. Just by word of mouth, being a part of a club. We lifted each other up.”

Clark spent most of 2013 on tour behind his Warner Bros. debut “Black and Blue,” and he found it unsettling when he returned to an Austin without Antone’s, which closed in December 2013 after a short-lived relocation. “I felt like there was a void,” he says. “People had been kind of dispersed, and it just felt like it wasn’t right. It’s like coming back to Austin and the University of Texas is gone, or the Capitol building.”

In 2014, Clark and his old Austin High School friend Will Bridges had what Bridges described as a “fateful meeting” during which they discussed the possibility of helping to bring Antone’s back in a new location. “I was giving him the full lowdown and saying, ‘What do you think are we being too nostalgic?’” Bridges recalls. “Should we just move on without it, or do we have to save that name?”

“And Gary, when he wants to, can be incredibly articulate. He really thought about it and said, ‘I think the answer is both. Yes, we’ve got to save it. Because the name represents the culture we inherited from Clifford; we wouldn’t be doing this without him. But we’ve got to reinvent it in a way that is a rebirth, not just a continuation.’”

Clark also remembers that meeting well. “I said, ‘Man, if you need me for anything, I’m down with whatever I can do, because it’s important to me.’ I thought we needed it. I needed it. Maybe it was selfish, but it feels great to be a part of it.” He cites in particular his long friendship with Eve Monsees, who helped turn



Courtesy of Warner Bros. Records

‘To be insulted right out in front of my front door pissed me off, and I felt like I needed to say something. Maybe I didn’t need to say something. But I couldn’t just let it go that easy.’

Gary Clark Jr.

on the incident with a neighbor that led to the title track of his new album, “This Land”

Clark onto Austin music in their early teen years. Monsees now owns Antone’s Record Shop with her husband, Mike Buck, and performs regularly at the club.

“She’s the one who pushed records on me and introduced me to who Clifford Antone was,” Clark recalls. “We went to his record store and he’d just drop piles and piles of records on me, and be all, ‘You need to learn this.’ So for her to now be owner of the record shop and me be part of the club is like, the kids grew up and came back home to rock with the family business. Which is a great feeling.”

COMING HOME TO AUSTIN was important for Clark, who lived with his wife, Australian model Nicole Trunfio, in Los Angeles for a stretch while they were starting a family. Their son, Zion, was born in January 2015; a daughter, Gia, arrived in January 2018.

They eventually moved back, settling on the eastern outskirts of town. “I tried being a New Yorker or a Californian, but I just don’t know how to do that,” he says with a smile. “When I’m off the road, I’m in Texas; I’m home. That’s where my family is; that’s where my people are.”

Among his people are the staff at Arlyn Studios, where some of the best records ever to come out of Austin have been made. Clark recorded “The Story of Sonny Boy Slim” there in 2015, and he returned to make “This Land” with engineers Jacob Sciba and Joseph Holguin. He relied more heavily on their guidance this time around, especially Sciba, who’s credited as co-producer with Clark. “Last time I didn’t want anybody to tell me what to do,” he says. “I wanted to make a record where I could express myself fully and have my ideas realized. But on this record, I was like, ‘This is bigger than me.’”

I told them, ‘Look, you guys let me do

what I wanted to do last time. I know you kept your mouth shut. If this sucks, tell me it sucks! Look me in my face, tell me it sucks.’”

It was Holguin who suggested calling Sheila E. when they needed to add percussion on a few songs. The longtime Prince collaborator, a niece of Clark’s friend Alejandro Escovedo, ended up contributing to half the album’s tracks.

Another intriguing wrinkle on “This Land” is the inclusion of samples and interpolations on several tracks. During the stretch when he and his young family lived in Los Angeles, Clark says, “they would go to sleep at night, and every night I would stay up and just be on my headphones grabbing these samples.”

One came from an important and intriguing source. The late, great soul singer Sharon Jones had recorded a splendid soul-funk version of Woody Guthrie’s folk classic “This Land Is Your Land” with her band the Dap-Kings, and Clark chopped a sample that later fit right into “This Land” after he’d written what became the album’s title track.

“THIS LAND IS MINE” is the defiant refrain tied to the Dap-Kings take, and it’s central to the song’s theme. “This Land” was written about an encounter with a neighbor who questioned Clark’s ownership of his 50-acre property, he explained in a video interview with Rolling Stone.

Clark says he thinks the song “was kind of fostering up for a little while” and drew upon everything from the election of Donald Trump and subsequent racial violence in Charlottesville, Va., to childhood memories of racist epithets written on the fence of his parents’ home.

He pauses to clarify his message and intent. “I wasn’t looking for inspiration to write a song like that. And to be quite honest, I’m not even sure if I took the right

approach by even coming up with this song. It’s not something that I wanted to be talking about or singing about.”

“I’m not a politician, I don’t claim to be. I’m just an artist. I have something to say. And unfortunately, I was approached at my house in front of my child, in a situation where I was meant to feel not equal to somebody else, in front of him. And it wouldn’t have bothered me, but I dealt with that stuff when I was growing up, and I didn’t want to have to explain to my kid at 3 years old. So that’s what made me angry.”

Clark says his initial instinct was, “I’m going to suppress this. I’m going to let it go, because that’s how I was taught by my parents: sticks and stones. But it wasn’t about me. People are hurting. People are being denied their rights, being denied access. I’m thinking, what are we going to do for our kids?”

“So I think ‘This Land’ is just me kind of snapping, and being like, enough already: This is where I come from,” he continues. “I’m out in front of my house, my place that I’ve worked for my whole life. I spent 20 years in this town trying to work and make it, make my parents proud, and be able to have something that I can pass down to my children, and they’re proud of me. Like the American dream. But for all that hard work, to be insulted right out in front of my front door pissed me off, and I felt like I needed to say something.”

“Maybe I didn’t need to say something. But I couldn’t just let it go that easy.”

CLARK HAS COME A LONG WAY from the little rooftop video of 16 years ago, but it’s worth revisiting that clip one more time, to see how far Clark has come — and to note just how true he has remained to his own promise. Watch, through the time warp, as Clark picks a simple blues riff on an acoustic guitar and casually taps his sneakers along to the beat. He concludes, in the song’s final verse:

*“Well no no
I refuse to back down
Well no no
I refuse to back down
Yeah I shall not be moved
I’m gonna stand my ground.”*

WEEKEND: VIDEO GAMES

‘Crackdown 3’ a by-the-numbers disappointment

BY CHRISTOPHER BYRD
Special to The Washington Post

“I love the smell of toxic fumes in the morning.” The narrator in “Crackdown 3” had a habit of saying this whenever my superagent scrapped with the polluters affiliated with the TerraNova corporation. His lame take on Robert Duvall’s much-abused line from “Apocalypse Now” is of a kind with “Crackdown 3’s” tired story and no-more-than-decent gameplay. I played through the campaign over the weekend with a friend and we were moderately entertained by its action while remaining aware of the banal quality of the overall experience. Bouncing around a city in gigantic arcs, jumping up buildings to collect power ups and shooting hostiles all seemed a lot less vivid with a friend to interact with. We agreed that the by-the-numbers campaign is best experienced with added distraction.

“Crackdown 3” feels like a remnant from another console era, a time in which open-world games were still a novelty. Arranged throughout the neon city of New Providence, where the game is set, are communication towers to scale, many enemy operations to assault, an unmem-



In “Crackdown 3,” players explore a futuristic city, race through the streets in a transforming vehicle and use powerful abilities to stop a ruthless criminal.

Xbox Game Studios

orable pack of bosses to kill and some side activities to participate in. None of these activities is particularly different than those found in any number of games.

The shooting, driving and traversal mechanics are fine and the firefights are generally well-

balanced, but these aspects don’t add up to anything particularly rousing. As my friend Milton said, “It’s the most OK game that I’ve played in a long time.”

At the core of “Crackdown 3” is a gameplay loop that revolves around gun battles against evil

corporate doers and combating the map for power ups to increase your law-bringer’s abilities. Power ups are usually found in high places. The game’s emphasis on verticality means that upping one’s agility or jumping skill is particularly useful. Another

line the narrator says a few times is “skills for kills”; thus, the more you perform an action, such as a melee attack, the more proficient your agent will grow in that skill.

I took silly pleasure in shattering robots with charged punches. I wish I could say the same about the game’s feeble attempts at humor. The only time my friend and I chuckled was when we were making fun of “Crackdown 3’s” tired invocations of class warfare.

Listening to a character talk about “flipping the script” on the rich while we were hopping around like kangaroos in pursuit of power up orbs made us vow to dump that old idiom on the scrap heap of history. It would have been nice if this one-dimensional game had pinned its trivial plot on something other than economic inequality.

It is annoyingly ironic that such a conventional game features an anti-corporation story line. The rebellious spirit that “Crackdown 3” tries to drum up with its punky supercons on a quest to take down a corporate city-state feels like it was wholly summoned by corporate consensus. This is one of those games where really all you need to do is read the back of its box or watch a trailer to know if it’s for you.

Platforms: Xbox One
Online: crackdown.com

‘Sunless Skies’ a gothic horror RPG with a focus on storytelling

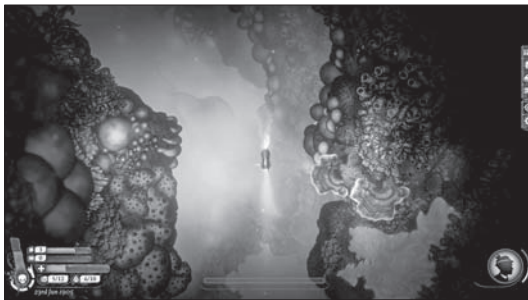
BY CHRISTOPHER BYRD
Special to The Washington Post

“Sunless Skies” is a majestically cruel game. I abandoned one campaign after the crew on my space-faring train devolved into a ragtag band of cannibals. On my next go-round, because the miseries that can visit one’s captain and crew are legion, I gathered that I’d acted rashly. Over the couple dozen hours I’ve spent on my current adventure, I’ve made horrible deals with cunning people, lost crew members on woefully unprepared expeditions, and have generally huddled before my monitor waiting for the next calamity.

Set in 1905, “Sunless Skies” is a Steam-punk RPG that imagines a universe in which the British had colonized the stars with a fleet of celestial trains. The vision of space laid out in the game is a place pulsating with hostile life and strange wonders, like an artistic community built on the petals of a gigantic orchid or architectural structures that defy cartography.

At its start, you assume control of a locomotive after a disastrous voyage into the Blue Kingdom, otherwise known as the Land of the Dead, claims your captain’s life. Your first order of business is to explore The Reach, an untamed, sunless span of the heavens. Scattered across it are trading posts where bargains can be snapped up on special goods.

Cultivating a network of shipping routes is key to keeping your enterprise going since traveling consumes fuel and supplies, and you’ll need money to upgrade the vessel and to keep provisions well-stocked. Knocking about, you’ll encounter a range of people and organizations with



Faillbetter Games

In “Sunless Skies,” players command a steam locomotive, traveling from port to port with their crew, smuggling and trading while hoping to find wealth, fame or the truth.

their own interests. Chief among the competing factions are the Londoners (British loyalists), and the Tacketies (settlers seeking self-determination). The game leaves it up to you to pick a side, play both sides off each other, or remain neutral.

Once you gain enough experience from your collective feats, you can level up your captain by picking among different character traits, each carrying a different set of stats — strength, persuasion, discernment, deceit, etc. — and potential narrative liabilities. Depending on your choices a captain may be haunted, jovial, a thrillseeker, an ex-con, from the bottom or top of the economic pyramid, or any num-

ber of other things. The stats associated with these choices affect the odds of many of the chance encounters in the game.

Progression through “Sunless Skies” can take on one of two forms. A legacy mode gives you a new captain each time you die, while a merciful mode allows you to fire up the last autosave and continue on with your captain, or to carry on with a new one. In the interest of time (and sanity), I chose the merciful mode and selected options to make the journey less arduous, like the ability to consume fuel and supplies at a slower rate.

Here I should add that I almost never chose the easy options for a game but after my initial humbling series of mis-

haps, I thought it prudent to do so. At any rate, my crew has perished many, many times on my current campaign, which makes me acknowledge how judicious the developers of “Sunless Skies” were in naming their company Failbetter Games.

Admirers of Samuel Beckett will recognize that “Failbetter” carries with it an allusion to the writer’s famous bit from “Worstword Ho”: “Try again. Fail again. Fail better.” Their moniker winks at both the company’s penchant for creating difficult games (their previous effort “Sunless Sea” was even harsher) and the literary flavor of their work.

It’s clear the developers are people who like books and that their games are aimed at people who are fond of reading. (I think Borges would be pleased to know that there is a Borges Ridge in the game populated with monsters that attack ships for the written words they carry.) For all of the beauty of “Sunless Skies” environments and the tense pleasure that comes with piloting a ship into the hazardous unknown, much of the experience is delivered via text from short paragraphs that scroll across the screen as you pilot the ship through branching narratives of varying lengths.

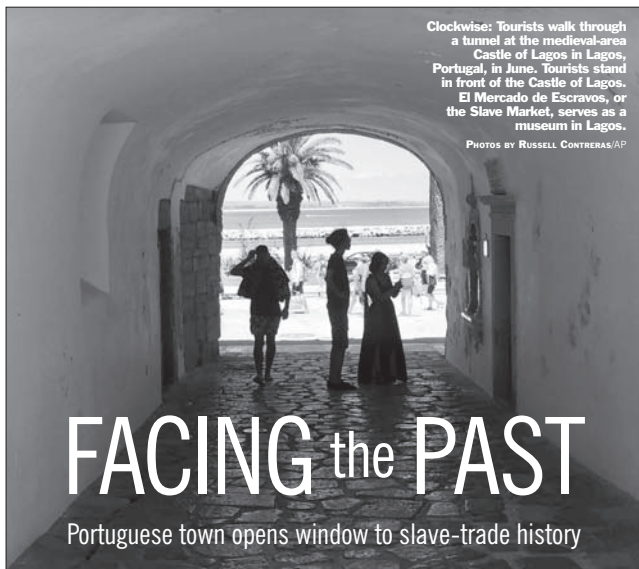
The writing in “Sunless Skies” is confident — many scenes and people are succinctly and strikingly described. Though some sentences are a bit flowery (e.g., “He sighs deeply, exclaiming around the number like a freed dove”), most are fun to read — “Nestled amid sprawling, sporing gardens of fungus Hydras is a colony of octogenarians.”

It’s a treat to see a game exult in the power of language to this degree. I can’t wait to get back to it.

Platforms: Mac, PC
Online: failbettergames.com/sunless-skies

WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Europe



Clockwise: Tourists walk through a tunnel at the medieval-area Castle of Lagos in Lagos, Portugal, in June. Tourists stand in front of the Castle of Lagos. El Mercado de Escravos, or the Slave Market, serves as a museum in Lagos.

PHOTOS BY RUSSELL CONTRERAS/AP

FACING the PAST

Portuguese town opens window to slave-trade history

By RUSSELL CONTRERAS
Associated Press

To the casual visitor, Lagos is a striking Portuguese beach town of charming coastlines and slightly sandstone cliffs. A medieval castle sits alongside boutique cafes and outdoor restaurants serving boiled and baked octopus. One can speed along the shore in a watercraft during the day and catch an intimate Fado show at night. Lagos is also where the African slave trade took root in Europe.

And once you go looking for that, nothing erases its legacy — not the pristine waters, nor the soft chords of a Portuguese guitarra.

Across Portugal, some cities and residents are trying to come to terms with the country's role in a trade that ultimately enslaved an estimated 12.5 million Africans around the world. Activists and elected officials have debated placing memorial

markers or establishing slavery museums.

In Lagos, the community has made its move.

In 1444, the first 200 captured black slaves from West Africa arrived in this enclave in the heart of southern Portugal's Algarve region. They had been kidnapped in raids after Prince Henry the Navigator set up a trading post off the coast of present-day Mauritania. Different forms of slavery already existed, but a newly efficient and barbaric system soon arose.

Profits from the sale of those first enslaved Africans led to more Portuguese raids of West Africa. Over 10 years, an estimated 800 slaves came to Lagos through this pre-Middle Passage route. As a result, Lagos became Europe's first African slave market, and it was enriching the Portuguese Crown.

Within a generation, the Portuguese African slave market moved to the capital, Lisbon, where the monarch established rules on arrivals, taxation and sales. Other European naviga-

KNOW & GO

El Mercado de Escravos
Address: Praça Infante Dom Henrique 1, 8600-525 Lagos, Portugal
Located in the Praça do Infante D. Henrique square, across from the Church of Santa Maria
Admission: 4 euros (about \$4.50)
Online: visitalgarve.pt/es/450/mercado-de-esclavos.aspx

tors developed their own routes, and their nations followed in the lucrative African slave trade.

Walking around Lagos, it's hard to reconcile how a place of such beauty was witness to such human horror. After all, eating a bifana — a Portuguese sandwich made of marinated pork cutlets — while listening to the calm waves lap at boulders is soothing to any soul trying to escape the



political divisions back home.

And yet, to the credit of this small beach town, it's not ignoring its past. It wants to you investigate it.

At the spot where the slave market began, a slavery museum has been erected. O Mercado de Escravos, or the Slave Market, sits in a building that once housed enslaved Africans. The museum tells the story of the first captured black slaves and the economic boom that followed. A striking sculpture of King Amador, who started a slave revolt on the island of São Tomé in 1395, grabs your attention on the first floor. It stands next to a bench where some museum officials say slaves once waited to be sold.

Upstairs, the walls are painted with images of the slave route and of slavery. Exhibits include a book kept by a slave trader and chains that once held slaves.

Outside in the Praça do Infante D. Henrique square is the open space where slaves likely walked before experiencing their first sale. Castelo dos Governadores,

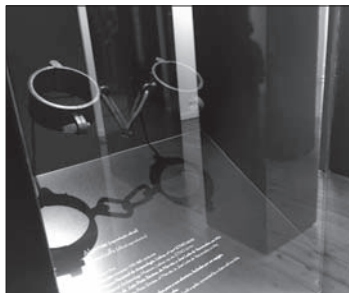
a 13th century Moorish castle and fortress, is located around the corner. One can't help but imagine slaves walking through these tunnels where tourists now take selfies and stroll freely after a snack.

Carlos Fortuna, an economics professor at the University of Coimbra in Coimbra, Portugal, said that El Mercado de Escravos is part of a trend in travel that some call "dark tourism," where visitors seek out sites linked to misery and tragedy.

"Think Auschwitz," Fortuna said. "You can visit the site of this notorious concentration camp and then get ice cream right after just outside."

At El Mercado de Escravos, visitors can buy souvenir magnets and bookmarks.

To take in the full impact of this town's connection to human suffering, one must put away the wallet and the selfie stick. Meditate on what took place here and appreciate the acknowledgement of that history after 500 years. It's a powerful feeling.



From left: Chains once used to hold slaves are displayed at El Mercado de Escravos. Tourists read about the African slave trade during a visit to the museum. A sculpture depicts a slave who led a revolt.



WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Europe

Book ahead to enjoy France's bounty in 2019

France has a rich history, an impressive infrastructure and a tourism industry trying valiantly to cope with its big crowds. Travelers who plan ahead enjoy big rewards.

Paris' most famous landmark, the Eiffel Tower, has a new look. A glass wall now rings its base for security reasons, with one access point at each side, meaning you can no longer wander freely under the tower. Visitors should allow an extra 30 minutes to go through screening. Also, summit tickets for the top are no longer available on the second level of the tower; it's smart to buy them online in advance.

Paris continues to upgrade its marvelous exhibits. The Cluny Museum, with its famous "The Lady and the Unicorn" tapestries, is undergoing a multi-year renovation. Expect some changes and room closures until at least 2020.

The Parisian transportation system is also getting some improvements. After a century of paper tickets for the Metro and buses, smartcards are slowly taking over, including the Navigo Easy Pass, which is better for travelers, as it can be shared and topped up.

At the Cathedral of Notre-Dame, timed-entry tickets are now required for the tower climb, even if you have a Paris Museum Pass. Reservations are available only on the same day (starting at 7:30 a.m.) on the JéFile app or at ticket machines on-site. Another Paris landmark, the towering, modern La Grande Arche de La Defense, has reopened, allowing visitors to take an elevator to the top. While it's pricey, and you can enjoy better views elsewhere, just visiting the La Defense district gets you into a fascinating slice of Paris that most tourists miss.



Rick Steves



To get the best views on the Aguille du Midi gondola in the French Alps, try to be on board first thing in the morning.

DOMINIC ARIZONA BONUCCELLI/Ricksteves.com

A new trend in Paris dining is "bus restaurants." Diners listen to soft jazz as they glide along Paris' most famous boulevards on an elegant double-decker bus. For about the same price as a dinner cruise on the Seine, you can dine for two hours with Paris rolling by outside your window.

Northwest of Paris, the towns of Normandy are getting ready to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the D-Day landings on June 6. Accommodations near the beaches are already booked up. On the bright side, in high season, guided tours in English will be offered for free (or very cheap) at the following key WWII spots: Arromanches, Longues-sur-Mer, American Cemetery at Omaha Beach, Pointe du Hoc, Utah Beach Landing Museum and Juno Beach Centre.

France's high-speed rail system is now better than ever. With the completion of a high-speed line to the city of Rennes, the trip from Paris to the spectacular island monastery of Mont-St-Michel now takes only three hours: about two hours on the

train to Rennes and then an hour on a railway-run bus, which drops you right at the island's main gate.

There's also some good news for chateau lovers: Construction work is finally complete at the Loire Valley's Chateau d'Azay-le-Rideau, which is set on a romantic reflecting pond, with a fairy-tale facade and beautifully furnished rooms.

Like other popular destinations, France is dealing with the damaging effects of heavy tourism. In the Dordogne, the Grotte de Font-de-Gaume prehistoric cave—one of the only caves in France where you can see original drawings, not replicas—no longer accepts reservations, making it next to impossible to get in. Local guides may have access to tickets—contact a guide at least six months in advance. For an alternative, consider the replica caves at Lascaux.

To the south, in Nîmes, the Roman World Museum is finally open after a decades-long wait. High-tech exhibits show off 5,000 artifacts in an eye-catch-

ing state-of-the-art building next to the Roman arena. One of its strengths is its rich collection of Latin-inscribed stones and mosaics—some discovered when digging the museum's parking garage.

In the alpine resort of Chamonix, the valley's most spectacular lift, the Aguille du Midi cable car, takes you to magnificent views at 12,602 feet—and each year its popularity seems to climb as well. To beat the crowds (and afternoon clouds), it's best to ride the lift early—no later than 8:00 (reservations are unnecessary if you arrive at the lift before 7:30).

And in happy news for small, family-run hotels and bed-and-breakfasts—and for savvy budget-conscious travelers—French hotels listed on third-party booking websites no longer have to match those prices on their own websites, allowing them to offer lower rates or special upgrades if you book direct.

Rick Steves (ricksteves.com) writes European travel guidebooks and hosts travel shows on public television and public radio. Email him at rick@ricksteves.com and follow his blog on Facebook.

TOP TRAVEL PICKS

Carnival celebrations in southern Germany

Carnival, Fasching or Fastnacht: this celebration goes by many labels, and the festivities can look vastly different depending on where you name to take them, but the purpose of the game remains the same: partying like hell no tomorrow. And for good reason, as the looming Ash Wednesday ushers in the somber Lenten season, with its attendant overtones of reflection and sacrifice.

Every year, often, Rose Monday, one of the biggest dates on the annual events calendar of Aachen, Cologne, Dusseldorf and Mainz, coincides with the U.S. federal holiday of President's Day, and Americans abroad can partake in carnival festivities without the need to take a vacation day. While you'll need to wait until 2021 for that next fortuitous mingling of the dates, enough local communities stage their big Fasching shenanigans on the Sunday instead of Rose Monday. For costumes, candy, satirical floats and step-



Karen Bradbury

Read more about things to do in the Europe Traveler blog: stripes.com/blogs/europe-traveler

ping to the beat of marching bands, head to these localities:

Frankfurt: a 2-mile parade with nearly 2,900 participants begins at 12:21 p.m. March 3 from Rottfiederring and passes along the Untermainkai before thinning out on the Wilhelm Leuchner-Strasse. Online: grosser-rat.de/fastnachtzug. Nuremberg: each year some 100,000 spectators turn out to watch a parade shake, rattle and roll its way from the Stadtpark through the heart of the city

and on to the Weisser Turm.

The parade first mentioned in records dating back to 1397 gets underway from 1 p.m. on March 3. Online: fnf-nbg.de

Wuerzburg: one of the biggest parades in all of Bavaria starts at 11:55 a.m. on March 3. Floats and marchers muster on Ludwigstrasse before making their merry way through town. Online: faschingszug-wuerzburg.de

Coopers dance in and around Munich

The choice is yours: catch a performance of the barrel-makers dance this year, or wait until 2026, when the seven-year cycle of its performance will once again repeat itself.

The curious custom of performing the Schaefflertanz dates back to the year 1517, a time when Munich's population was being decimated by the plague. Nearly half of the city's some 20,000 inhabitants had succumbed to the dreaded disease. Once the plague had run its devastating course, the Schaeffler, the city's coopers or barrel-makers,



Courtesy of grosser-rat.de

Nearly 29,000 participants will take part in Frankfurt, Germany's Fasching parade this Sunday.

ers, took upon themselves to recast a sense of joie de vivre to Munich's residents by dancing in

the streets with hoops wrapped in greenery, accompanied by a live musical soundtrack. As life slowly returned to the streets, the coopers' clowning antics brought smiles to the faces of the recently bereaved.

The dance evolved into its present-day form about a century and a half ago. Twenty-five participants, to include dancers, hoop twirlers, clowns and a flag bearer, perform their intricate dancing routine over the course of the Fasching season. Their intricate steps, coupled with their red, white and black costumes and buckled shoes, make for a far-from-everyday spectacle. The character to watch is surely the Reifenschwinger, who holds a wooden hoop upon which balances a tiny wine-filled glass. After twirling his hoop while standing atop a cask, he downs the wine and tosses the empty glass over his shoulder.

Don't miss the chance to catch one of the group's few remaining dances, staged in Munich's old town and outlying suburbs several times daily through March 5. Online: schaefflertanz.com

WEEKEND: FOOD & DINING

Europe



PHOTOS BY AARON KNOWLES/Stars and Stripes

Chinakrone, in Wiesbaden, Germany, offers a Chinese food buffet at an affordable price. Unfortunately, many of the options are fried and brown.

After Hours: Germany

By AARON KNOWLES
Stars and Stripes

Wiesbaden's Chinakrone, or China Crown, isn't worth the trip ... sorry. Located halfway between Wiesbaden and Mainz, Chinakrone offers a typical all-you-can-eat Chinese food buffet, at a relatively inexpensive price.

Unfortunately, the food isn't worth it. Chinakrone is open seven days a week and depending on the day of the week you visit, the price of the buffet will cost between \$8 and \$17. While this buffet offers the incentive of cheap and delicious sushi, the lack of variety in the rest of the lineup is the real upset.

You get your choices of white rice, fried rice, noodles or all of the above, but as you continue down the buffet, the colors of the food seem to blur together. That dull fried brown color is just way too prominent. There are a few other options of salad and fruit and maybe a soup or two, but the keyword is "few."

The positive aspect of the buffet, other than the sushi, was the abundance of seating. Chinakrone offers two large rooms full of large and small

CHINAKRONE

Address: Hagenauer Str. 40c, 65203 Wiesbaden
Hours: Mon-Sun 11:30 - 23:30
Prices: \$8-\$17
Dress: Casual
Phone: (0611) 927 97 28
Online: chinakrone.de

— Aaron Knowles

tables ready for any sized party.

Also, it would seem that pets are allowed inside the restaurant, so you are able to bring your animal friends.

When it comes to service, this is a typical all-you-can-eat buffet except that you seat yourself. After choosing a table, make sure that you flag down a server and order a drink, because it would seem that it is a long trek to wherever drinks come from at Chinakrone.

Knowles, Aaron@strips.com
@AKStripes



The highlight of Chinakrone's all-you-can-eat buffet is the wide variety of delicious sushi.

For a good steak, take it low and slow in oven

By BECKY KRISTAL
The Washington Post

A healthy amount of self-awareness is crucial when it comes to cooking. My blind spot has been, and I suspect will always be, meat.

I suspect it mostly boils down to inexperience and, therefore, lack of confidence. When you've had everything from flaming chickens (grill and oven!) and fat splatters to unpleasantly overcooked and questionably undercooked food, it can kind of mess with your head.

So it was with a certain amount of trepidation that I began a foray into steak. My first attempt at pan-frying a large sirloin steak was messy. And thanks to the massive size of the cut (enough for four, according to the recipe) and the inevitable hot (and not so hot) spots you find in cast iron, the cook was very uneven — completely gray in some places and practically raw in others.

I'm not one to admit defeat, so I immediately tried another recipe, a low and slow steak.

To keep the meat from overcooking while you sear it, freeze it for half an hour first.

To prevent an uneven finish, cook it at a low temperature for almost an hour in the oven.

So, yes, there's a trade-off. If time is of the essence when you're cooking steak, then this probably isn't the recipe for you. If, however, you're okay with that commitment of mostly inactive time to get perfectly cooked meat without the hand-wringing anxiety of managing a pan-fried steak, then come along with me.

With this two-pronged approach, the rosy medium-rare texture reaches from beautifully seared edge to edge. It was fantastic out of the oven, and leftovers would make an excellent sandwich.

The original recipe called for a brush of melted butter on the steaks after cooking, which you can still do if you prefer the simplicity of flavor and fewer dishes to wash. But for extra oomph, I used a rosemary-flavored olive oil to replace the melted butter. And since I had a hot skillet with a slick of oil in it anyway, I threw a couple of lemon halves in to sear (if your cast-iron skillet is well-seasoned, a few minutes of the acid should be okay, although I preferred using a small non-stick pan).

As long as you have a trusty instant-read thermometer — one with a probe that you can leave in the meat while it cooks is especially helpful — this is a recipe you can easily conquer. If I can do it, then you definitely can, too.

SEARED, SLOW-ROASTED STEAK

Ingredients:

Two 1-pound New York strip steaks, at least 1 inch thick
1 tablespoon vegetable oil
Kosher salt
Freshly ground black pepper
¼ cup extra-virgin olive oil
2 or 3 stems rosemary, cut into 2-inch pieces
1 or 2 lemons, halved
Flaky salt, for serving

Directions:

Line a small rimmed baking sheet with aluminum foil or parchment paper; place the steaks on it and freeze (uncovered) for 30 minutes.

Preheat the oven to 160 degrees, or its lowest temperature (see above). Brush both sides of the chilled steaks with the vegetable oil, then generously season with the kosher salt and black pepper.

Heat a heavy skillet, preferably cast-iron, over high heat. Add the steaks and sear for 60 seconds on each side, or until they reach your desired level of char. Briefly sear the fat on the side of each steak until it is lightly browned (use tongs to hold the meat upright).

Discard the foil or parchment from the baking sheet, then place the steaks directly on the baking sheet. Insert the probe of an oven-safe digital thermometer into the thickest part of one steak. Transfer to the oven; slow-roast until the meat registers an internal temperature of 133 degrees. The time may vary depending on the thickness of the steak and your oven temperature, but figure on at least 50



Tom McCornick/For The Washington Post

It's easy to cook slow-roasted steak evenly.

minutes to 1 hour. The meat will be an even medium-rare, lightly pink throughout.

Meanwhile, combine the olive oil and rosemary in a small skillet over medium-low heat; cook for 5 to 10 minutes, stirring occasionally, until fragrant. Remove from the heat, scrape the rosemary and all but about a teaspoon of the oil into a small bowl.

Return the skillet to the stove top, over medium-high heat; add the lemon halves, cut sides down. Cook until the cut sides are well browned and charred in spots. Use tongs to transfer them to a plate, cut sides up.

Brush the finished steaks lightly with the rosemary-infused oil, and season lightly with the flaky salt. Let the meat rest for a few minutes, then slice and serve, with the remaining infused oil and the charred lemon halves, for squeezing.

Servings: 4

WEEKEND: QUICK TRIPS

Europe



MAKING A SPLASH

Southern Germany's Therme Erding, the largest thermal spa in the world, is the ultimate in fun and relaxation

By MARTIN EGNASH
Stars and Stripes

Waterslides, thermal pools and a plethora of saunas. What's not to love about Therme Erding, the world's largest thermal spa?

Saunas and spas are very popular in Germany. But if you're stationed at U.S. Army Garrison Bavaria or happen to be visiting Munich, you could tour this extraordinary spa site, located just a few minutes away from the Munich International Airport, and two hours south of Grafenwoehr.

From the outside, this veritable city of saunas looks like a sci-fi lunar colony inside several giant domes. And once you get inside, you almost immediately get lost in a maze of pools and water treatments.

The place is absolutely enormous. But to help you get around, it's separated into four distinct areas.

The most "out of this world" was clearly the space-themed waterslide area, Galaxy Water Slide World. This has 27 slides, including the world's longest waterslide, which you go down on a tube. It feels like you're traveling in some kind of wet, 1970s, bright orange spaceship.

There's also a slide where you put on virtual reality goggles and go on a wet-and-wild alien adventure, but they're only available at certain times.

Literally every slide I went on was a blast, though, so just try as many as you can before you need to rest.

But once you're in the mood to chill out, the spa has ample areas to do so.

The pool area has dozens of different mineral baths and places to swim. Some of the baths claim to have healing properties. I'm not entirely sold on their medicinal benefits, but at

least they are relaxing.

My favorite of the pools was the Dead Sea Bath, which, like its namesake in Israel and Jordan, is so salty that people just float on top. There are handles surrounding the pool so relaxed patrons don't float into each other.

Some of the pools have swim-up bars in the water, so you can order drinks, both alcoholic and nonalcoholic, while you're swimming.

One of the weirdest things about the place are all the sleeping rooms tucked into random corners. They're all very nice, and lavishly decorated, but I thought it was kind of weird to go to catch some shut-eye next to a bunch of strangers.

There is a large wave pool as well. This re-creates a beach-like atmosphere, complete with sun tanning beds under a fake sun.

The largest of the areas is the Sauna and Wellness area. Be warned, though. This 16+ area is a nude area, which could be quite a shock for some Americans. But if you can get past your Puritan roots and embrace German culture, this is basically as European as it gets.

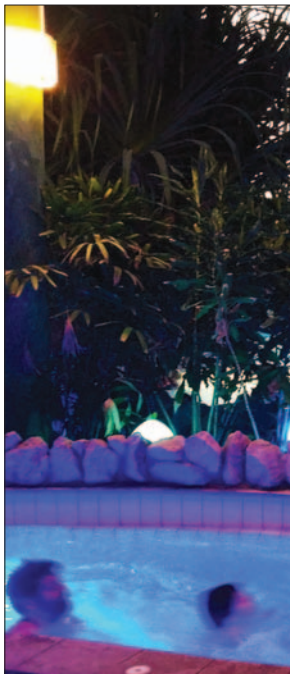
The sauna area is basically a tropical naked city, with restaurants, bars, pools and 30 saunas.

The saunas were the coolest part, because each one is unique. One has a movie projector playing short films on the ceiling. One is built like an ancient Celtic tribe hall, with a chieftain's seat at the top. Another has an actual geyser that erupts inside it. You get the picture.

My favorite was the Russian "banja sauna," where special herbs are cooked in the center that give the whole place a cool, piney aroma.

You could easily spend a whole day wandering around this place, trying different baths, rides and saunas. I spent almost seven hours there, and I'm pretty sure I didn't see half of it.

egnash.martin@stripes.com
Twitter: @Marty_Stripes



ON THE QT

DIRECTIONS

Therme Erding is located about two hours south of Grafenwoehr, easily reachable via A9.

TIMES

10 a.m. to 11 p.m.

COSTS

There are different levels of passes available, from a two-hour pass at the slides and pool area starting at 18 euros (\$20.43) to a full-day inclusive pass at 41 euros.

FOOD

Several cafes and restaurants on site serve grilled food, crepes, Italian food and more.

INFORMATION

Online: therme-erding.de/en

— Martin Egnash

Waterslides, a hot tub and a pool with a swim-up bar are just some of the offerings at Therme Erding.

PHOTOS BY MARTIN EGNASH
Stars and Stripes

Danish hotel's rooms can clean themselves

Stay in a high-tech hotel today and you might see the day's headlines in your full-length mirror or have a personal trainer on-demand when you turn on the television.

If you're staying at Copenhagen's just-opened Hotel Ottilia, on the other hand, you might have a room that fully disinfects itself each morning without housekeeping lifting a finger.

The hotel has partnered with Danish company ACT.Global in order to use its proprietary ACT CleanCoat technology, which is transparent, odorless and activated by sunlight. The main ingredient, titanium dioxide, is also found in sunscreen. In tests from national research organizations such as Denmark's National Research Centre for the Working Environment, the antibacterial spray has been shown to break down microbes that range from influenza and salmonella to mold spores and allergens. Cover a room like invisible insulation, and it can purify the air for up to a year, removing contaminants such as cigarette smoke or other odors.

"We've been testing this system for two years," says Karim Nielsen, chief executive officer of Brockner Hotels, the Ottilia's parent company. He compares the invisible coating technology to Teflon and first trialed it at the nearby Hotel Hietman K. Now the two hotels are the world's first to use it to clean themselves.

"What really sold us on it was that it would make life so much easier for our staff," Nielsen says. Housekeepers don't have to apply chemical detergents and cleaners or breathe their fumes. They can vacuum, dry-clean linens and wipe down surfaces, and CleanCoat does the rest. Guests also benefit: Their rooms are cleaned faster without using chemicals that can cause allergic reactions.

Nielsen estimates that each room costs \$2,500 to cover with CleanCoat. "The technology is expensive," he says, "but we've reduced the labor load by 50 percent. It's giving our staff a much easier day and reducing our water consumption."

Guy Langford, vice chairman and U.S. leader of the transportation and hospitality team at Deloitte, is less certain that this is the next big innovation to take hotels by storm. "Sustainability is something large brands are really prioritizing right now, but it's important to focus on the measures that can be easily scaled," he explains, referring to initiatives such as swapping plastic straws for paper.

Scalability could become an issue with CleanCoat. Nielsen has to fully empty a hotel room of furniture to spray it with CleanCoat — something that tends to happen only during renovations — and the formula has to be reapplied each year.

When it comes to healthy lifestyle trends, Langford says, innovations are most readily embraced when they help travelers maintain their existing habits on the road. "That's what's driving popular new amenities like customized lighting settings, healthier menus, air purifiers and the like."

— Nikki Ekstein/Bloomberg

RESTAURANT DIRECTORY



GERMANY



KAISERSLAUTERN	BAVARIA	STUTTGART	RHEIN MAIN
Zimtblüte asian food Call 0631-58047 for Pick-Up Orders Tue-Sun 11am-9pm Mon Closed Weilerbacher Str. 110 67661 Kaiserslautern	 BOHM Neue Amberger Straße 39 92655 Grafenwöhr 09641 9369-0 www.hotelboehm.de	 Kashmir authentic indian cuisine STUTTGART Martheimer Str. 395 Phone 07141-88 94 304 ECHESTERINGEN Esslinger Str. 11 Phone 07141-99 76 38 16 LEONBERG Leinberger Str. 17 Phone 07141-99 32 32 Hours: 12:00 - 14:00 and 17:30 - 23:00	 Ceme Experience Germany's Finest Beer and Authentic German Cuisine www.brahaus-castel.de Otto Sahr Ring 27 55253 Mainz-Kastel Tel. 06134-24999 Open daily from 11:00 - 24:00
 COCKTAIL CASINO HAPPY HOUR ENCHI Hour Schillerplatz 3-5 67655 Kaiserslautern 0631 3702 7570 www.Enchilada-kaiserslautern.de	 Caribbean Grill Savor the Flavor of the Islands Diefertur Str. 18 92655 Grafenwöhr 0152-58961759 Fr - Sa 17:00 - 22:00 Caribbean Dishes • Side Salads • Desserts	 TRIPLE B Two Locations: Hohenloherstraße 8 70435 Stuttgart and Marienstraße 28 70178 Stuttgart TRIPLE B • High Quality Burgers www.beef-burger-brothers.de	 Mayflower Open daily 11:30 - 15:00 & 17:30 - 23:30 USD accepted - Master Card/Visa Tel. 06134-258938 Uthmann Strasse 8, Mainz-Kostheim
 CANTINA MEXICANA Kaiserstr. 117 67661 Kaiserslautern-Einsiedlerhof 0631-99328 www.cantina-mexicana.com	 Anastasia Anastasia Greek Specialties Im Markwinkel 1, 92655 Grafenwöhr 09641-929285 www.anastasia-grafenwoehr.de	 olio e pane OUTLET CITY METZINGEN Linderpl. 5, 72555 Metzingen +49 (0)7123 36 11 61 Opening Hours: Mon - Sat 11:30am - 10pm	 OUTLET CITY METZINGEN Linderpl. 5, 72555 Metzingen +49 (0)7123 36 11 61 Opening Hours: Mon - Sat 11:30am - 10pm
 Trattoria Da Salvatore Landstuhl Home Delivery Service 06371-8497 Telefonisch 06371-849711 www.trattoria-salvatore.com	 IRISH PUB GRAFENWÖHR Marktplatz 33 92655 Grafenwöhr 09641 / 91 68 622 irlandpub@irishpub.com	 STADT CAFE Holzgerlingen Breakfast • Lunch Daily Special Coffee & Cake Homemade Ice Cream Sunday Breakfast Turnstr. 6 71088 Holzgerlingen 07031 414777 www.stadtcasdefe.de Opening Times Mo-Fr 8:30am to 7pm Sa 9am to 6pm Sun 9am to 7pm	 STADT CAFE Holzgerlingen Breakfast • Lunch Daily Special Coffee & Cake Homemade Ice Cream Sunday Breakfast Turnstr. 6 71088 Holzgerlingen 07031 414777 www.stadtcasdefe.de Opening Times Mo-Fr 8:30am to 7pm Sa 9am to 6pm Sun 9am to 7pm

HOTEL DIRECTORY



GERMANY



 BOHM Neue Amberger Straße 39 92655 Grafenwöhr • 09641 9369-0 www.hotelboehm.de	 COURTYARD Marriott WIESBADEN NORDENSTADT 09261 9202 807-0 M reservations@courtyard-wiesbaden.de W www.courtyard-wiesbaden.de	 PULLMAN HOTELS AND RESORTS STUTTGART FORNHAUS Vollmoellerstrasse 5 • 70563 VAIHINGEN • STUTTGART T +49 71 780 0-4 • +49 71 780 2523 • E: h4@pullman.com BOOK TODAY 0711 730 2300	 EDELWEISS LODGE AND RESORT
--	--	--	--

 HOTEL AM SEE HOTEL • GRILL • BAR Kirchenhumbacher Str. 36, • 92676 Eschenbach Tel.: +49 (0)9645-8444 Email: Hotelamsee@usa.net • www.HotelAmSee.de	Hotel Forsthaus by Garmisch Free Breakfast, Family Apartments Hot Tub, Sauna, Dogs Welcome, American/German Owned, 36 EUR/Person, Double Occupancy, Per Night. Tel: 08824-9120 • Email: hotel@forsthaus-oberau.de VAT Forms accepted • www.forsthaus-oberau.de	 Hotel Villa Just 3 Minutes from Rose Barracks Amberger Str. 9 • 92249 Vilseck E-Mail: hotel-villa@gmail.de Tel.: +49 (0) 9662/42070 www.hotel-villa-vilseck.de
---	---	--

WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Pacific

By ERIN E. WILLIAMS

Special to The Washington Post

The boat rose and fell relentlessly, one ocean swell after another. I leaned over its stern, fixing my eyes on the decoy floating a few yards away. I had watched it for hours, barely glancing at the elephant seals hauled out on the nearby island.

In my eagerness to see who might nibble on the bobbing object, I was reluctant to look away for even a moment.

I was on a daylong expedition to the Farallon Islands, about 30 miles west of San Francisco. The craggy islands are a familiar sight for Bay Area beachgoers on a clear day, but most people don't know that they support vast seabird colonies and mammals such as sea lions, dolphins, elephant seals and humpback, blue and gray whales.

The Farallones are also home to some of the largest great white sharks on the planet.

My husband Andrew, our friend Neil and I joined a dozen biologists, volunteers and wildlife watchers for the trip — part of Sharktober, an annual Bay Area celebration of the great whites' return from their oceanic migration each September through November. Along with land-based educational events, the excursions immerse aspiring seafarers in the Farallon Islands' natural history and marine ecosystem.

Shark Stewards, a nonprofit group that promotes sound stewardship for sharks and all marine life, organizes the events and tours. Its director, marine biologist David McGuire, led our expedition as one of several weekend day trips during Sharktober.

We boarded the Silver Fox, a chartered 50-foot fishing boat, at Fisherman's Wharf in San Francisco. Although thick November fog dulled the sunrise, the forecast was less volatile than usual. I still pulled on my burliest cold-weather clothing, including a waterproof jacket and pants.

The Farallones are fierce. Because of savage weather, perilous currents and ragged rocks, the Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary estimates that more than 400 shipwrecks might surround the isolated islands. Local Miwok referred to them as the "Islands of the Dead," and mariners called them the "Devil's Teeth." Compounding the sense of danger is the sharks' fearsome reputation, which only now is beginning to recover from decades of misperception and demonization.

The Farallones are a marine sanctuary protected by a number of state and federal designations. As a result, they're a haven for at least 25 endangered and threatened species, more than a dozen nesting seabird species and 36 marine mammal species. And, of course, the sharks.

We puttered into San Francisco Bay. Fog and water conspired into an indistinct smudge, dampening visibility and tension. A container ship lurked in the mist, occasionally breaking the eerie stillness with a horn blast. We were already in another world.

We were surprisingly close to Marin County's Muir Beach when we saw our first humpback. It exhaled, and the breeze



Islands off the coast of San Francisco a popular stop for sharks, shark watchers

PETER WINCH/NOAA Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary

Above: Great white sharks are an important species in the Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary, a haven for at least 25 endangered and threatened species.

wafted a comically sour plume from its blowhole into our faces.

A tail rose from the water: a California gray whale heading south on one of the world's longest migrations. We turned west into the Gulf of the Farallones, riding against 10-foot swells through the clearing fog. I silently prayed to the motion-sickness patch stuck behind my ear.

We rolled up and down the swells and rubbernecked at whales for 2½ hours until we reached the Farallones' granite island ridge, once part of a Southern California mountain range. Ocean waves thundered into jagged, sky-scraping spires.

Around Southeast Farallon Island, thousands of common murres circled in the air. "This is North America's largest seabird colony," McGuire explained. "In springtime, more than 300,000 seabirds nest here."

The boat idled in a cove. Although the islands are off-limits to the public, two strikingly desolate houses sit below a lighthouse-topped summit. For years, hardly scientists have taken shifts researching and living on the island.

I smelled the elephant seals before I saw them squabbling with each other under the cliffs. They are one of the sharks' key food sources. Each fall, between 15 and 50 sharks arrive — most of them large and all of them hungry. They're part of a population of several hundred that scientists have identified from Mexico to British Columbia.

A couple of months later, fattened on elephant seals and sea lions, the sharks depart the Farallones. Some travel to the "white shark cafe" in the mid-Pacific, a gathering place where scientists suspect



PHOTOS BY ERIN E. WILLIAMS/For The Washington Post

Above: The only human-inhabited island in the archipelago is Southeast Farallon Island, where two windblown dwellings house researchers. A lighthouse sits atop the island.

Inset: Although attracting sharks in the Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary is prohibited, Shark Stewards holds a permit for a seal decoy.

that they feed and breed. Others swim to Mexico. Their round-trip migration can approach 5,000 miles.

On the deck, a graduate student named Nikki prepared a decoy: a child's stuffed black wet suit with dive fins extending from its legs. Although attracting sharks is forbidden in the protected waters, Shark Stewards holds a permit for the lure.

Nikki chuckled it over the side of the boat, where it made a fair impersonation of an injured seal. But would a shark fall for the ruse?

"We need something that looks like a food source, since sharks aren't interested in humans," McGuire said. "That said, sharks are pretty smart. If they see it once, they probably won't investigate it twice."

During the trips, McGuire and his team employ a toaster-size, remotely operated vehicle to observe sharks underwater without disturbing them or altering their behavior. The team records and shares

CONTINUED ON PAGE 33

You have a chance to win a \$300 gift card!

STARS AND STRIPES

STARS AND STRIPES

BEST OF THE PACIFIC 2019

Vote online by March 24 at

bestofpacific.stripes.com



CAST YOUR VOTE!
to determine the annual BEST OF THE PACIFIC!

WEEKEND: FOOD & DINING

Pacific

FROM PAGE 32

data—including with the public through educational outreach and as part of National Geographic's Open Explorer program.

"These are everyone's sanctuaries," he said. "If people don't experience them, it's harder to appreciate them and understand the importance of protection."

An intern dropped the little robot overhead. It disappeared while McGuire operated it from a tablet.

The decoy was getting too close to the boat. I followed McGuire's request to pull its line as we turned, jerking it to mimic a panicked seal.

"Yeah, that's definitely going to attract a shark," said Neil, rolling his eyes.

The motion-sickness medication was losing its battle with the swells and the elephant seals' spectacular stink. Andrew and I felt seasick.

The three of us watched the decoy from the stern. Every once in a while, I fixed my eyes on the island to quell nausea.

After a couple of hours, Andrew had to take a break. He disappeared into the cabin.

I didn't feel like a shark encounter was imminent. All I felt were nausea and dimming hope.

Maybe that's why I was dumbstruck when I heard a splash.

It was over before I understood what was happening. I turned to the sound. A gigantic shape broke the water just 10 feet from the boat.

A great white shark.

Clearly not fooled by the decoy, it bumped it with its nose and cruised by. The skin on its back was a beautiful smooth, liquid, metallic gray. After a few seconds, it slid back underwater.

Overcome with excitement, Neil and I shouted expletives while pointing at the disappearing eddies.

McGuire confirmed the sighting, and everyone cheered.

This was the moment that Andrew emerged from below deck. He had only been gone for a minute or two. "No," he said. "You didn't see a shark."

I nodded. Now it was his turn to curse.

The shark appeared colossal to my inexperienced eye, but McGuire later confirmed that it was somewhat small.

"Most sharks here are at least 14 feet long, and they can reach 20 feet," he said. "It may be 12 feet."

Daylight was waning. It was time to turn back to the coast.

We sat on the bow during the return trip. Hundreds of maroon sea nettle jellyfish drifted under the boat, and dolphin pods followed our wake. I lost track of the day's whale count after a dozen. Neil occasionally leaned across Andrew and asked me, "Do you remember when we saw that shark and Andrew missed it?"

My head bobbed up and down like a decoy.

After Hours: Korea

By MATTHEW KEELER

Stars and Stripes

I'm new to Osan Air Base, so I am always on the lookout for anything around the installation that grabs my attention. When I spotted a local establishment that claimed to be "The World's Best Family Restaurant," I knew I had to see if it was worthy of such a title.

With more than 100 locations spread across South Korea, Raracost opened its first outlet, east of Daegu near Yeongcheon City Hall, just seven years ago.

Raracost serves up a unique take on Italian-inspired cuisine that includes pork and chicken entrees, pasta, pizza, pilaf and risottos, and salad. It's especially popular with university students, as many locations are situated near college campuses.

You can expect to be greeted by a hostess and escorted to a table. On my visit, I was accompanied by my wife and two kids—so we were seated in a separate dining room that is conveniently located next to the restaurant's elaborate children's play area.

Once greeted and seated, don't expect much more from the hosts. Fountain drinks, water and coffee are at self-service stations—and choosing your meal is as easy as writing down an item's number from the menu and handing your order to any host. Items are brought to the table as soon as they're ready, so your food can potentially come out one dish at a time.

If you don't speak Korean, don't worry. The menu includes a picture and an English description for every item, making our search for the perfect dish a little more pleasant. Beverages consisted of standard Pepsi products, but no diet options were available besides water.

As this was our first visit to Raracost, we made sure to order a variety of entrees from the menu to share with the table.

For our youngest child, we selected the Triple Combo (7,500 won, or about \$6.50), which included chicken nuggets, baked potato chips and cheese sticks served with a side of honey mustard and ketchup. Although there was nothing particularly special about this dish, it's an ideal choice for American palates, as the restaurant's kids' menu leaves much to be desired.

Next out was my choice: the Bacon Snowball Pizza (14,900 won), which is topped with fresh "snowballs" of cream cheese and bacon. The crust on the pizza is extremely thin, making this a lighter option compared to traditional pizzas. This dish was the clear standout of the evening.

With each bite, I couldn't wait to make my way to the next cheese snowball.

My wife ordered the Double Pork Steak (17,900 won). While Raracost does not offer any beef products other than hamburger steaks, this tender piece of pork—served with a sweet sauce, salad and fries—will surely satisfy any diner in search of a meaty dish.

The least appealing meal of the evening was the American Cheese Pasta (10,900 won)—but my teenage daughter didn't seem to mind. When first brought to the table, the dish resembled a pan pizza topped with bubbly cheese. However, over the course of several minutes, it quickly turned into heavy, creamy pasta.

Is Raracost worthy of the title of "world's best family restaurant"? Perhaps, as your visit really



PHOTOS BY MATTHEW KEELER/Stars and Stripes

Raracost serves up a unique take on Italian-inspired cuisine that includes pork and chicken entrees, pasta, pizza, pilaf and risottos, and salad.



Although popular with college students, Raracost is also an ideal place for family dining, as the restaurant features an elaborate children's play area.

is what you make of it. The children's indoor playground was an unexpected bonus for a chain that targets a younger clientele, but it also helped enhance the family-friendly atmosphere of the restaurant.

Our meal for a family of four came to roughly \$1,000 won (or about \$45)—which, although a reasonable cost for a family evening out, is a price point that might have Americans expecting a certain level of service.

Still, we left satisfied—and even raved about the Bacon Snowball Pizza all the way to the car.

keeler.matthew@strips.com

RARACOST

Location: There are more than 100 Raracost outlets throughout Korea. The closest location to Osan Air Base is: 814-2 Seojeong-dong, Pyeongtaek, Gyeonggi-do, South Korea
Directions: The nearest Raracost to Osan Air Base is roughly a 3-km walk or drive from the installation's main gate, or a five-minute ride using public transportation. To take the bus, look for bus number 1-1. The bus conveniently stops at the restaurant's front door. There is no parking lot, but parking is available several blocks away for a small fee.
Hours: Open daily from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Cost: Pork dishes range from 9,000 to 18,000 won (about \$8 to \$16), while pizza, pasta, and rice plates are anywhere from 6,000 to 16,000 won.
Dress: Casual
Information: Online: raracost.com

— Matthew Keeler

Est.1925

MARUARA WATANABE



和雜貨丸渡邊

Cheerful KIMONO & Good Souvenir-shop

- ★ GETA (Wooden Footwear) ★ CHIRIMEN Bags
- ★ SAMURAI-KIMONO ★ YUKATA-KIMONO
- ★ NOREN (Tapestry) ★ JIKATABI (Japanese TABI Shoes)
- ★ TENUGUI Cloth ★ FUROSHIKI Wrapping Cloth
- ★ CHIRIMI (Japanese Crepe Cloth)



Mon.- Fri.
 11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
 Sat., Sun., Holidays
 1:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
 Closed on Wednesday

1-6-8, Udagawacho, Shibuya-ku, TOKYO



03-3461-0064 • www.maruara.com • info@maruara.com

WEEKEND: TRAVEL

SMART TRAVELS

Advice on how to avoid scams

and fraud when booking a trip

BY KATE SILVER

Special to The Washington Post

It was like FOMO catnip: an island paradise, beloved musical headliners, private jet transportation and luxurious villa accommodations, supermodels frolicking with swimming pigs on social media. But, as we learned in 2017 and have been reminded by two recent documentaries about Fyre Festival ("Fyre: The Greatest Party That Never Happened" on Netflix and "Fyre Fraud" on Hulu), sometimes a little skepticism is in order.

"Whether this was a planned scam or just ineptness of beginner event planners, it's not entirely clear," says Katherine Hutt, national spokesperson for the Better Business Bureau. "But what is clear is that people should not have trusted somebody with that kind of record with that amount of money."

While it is easy to look back at Fyre Festival and see all the red flags, the truth is that questionable travel deals, overhyped events and even travel hoaxes happen all the time — and they do not always make headlines. In 2017, the most recent year for which data is available, consumers filed 22,264 complaints about travel and timeshare fraud with the Federal Trade Commission.

To avoid getting burned by events like Fyre Fest, Hutt and other experts shared some steps consumers can take.

Do your research

If a company — whether it is a hotel, airline, vacation website, festival or other entity — has been around for a while, do a quick search on it on sites like the Better Business Bureau (BBB.org) and its state's attorney general office to check for any complaints. Hutt says that when she researches a business, she will also look up their information in ICANN's WHOIS database, which has information on who registered a domain name or IP address. If she learns the site is brand new or the owner's name is hidden, that could be concerning. "It takes a little sleuthing," Hutt says. "But a brand new domain name is a good indication of when something is potentially a scam." Peter John, author of the book "Around the World in 80 Scams: An Essential Travel Guide," suggests adding the word "scam" to your Google search. "If you can find the name of the website linked to the word 'scam' online, it may be a scam itself," John says. "You may be able to find other people's experiences of being scammed, and they can be a warning to you."



Netflix's Fyre Festival documentary, "Fyre: The Greatest Party That Never Happened," talks about the real damage done by Ja Rule, left, and Billy McFarland's festival.

Be wary of 'deals'

If you are being solicited for some kind of special, whether it is a vacation package or a timeshare, be careful, says Mamie Kresses, senior attorney in the FTC's division of advertising practices. "You need to just have a high level of skepticism," she says. Kresses says to find out the name of the company behind the deal and make sure it is a reputable business. And, she says, when you visit a website, make sure it is the brand you think it is. "If you're going to a particular hotel or a particular cruise line, just be careful, look closely, make sure you're actually on the website of the company that you are intending to be on," Kresses says.

Always pay with a credit card

Never hand over a check, money order or cash when booking travel. If a travel purchase turns out to be fraudulent, your credit card may be able to offer a layer of protection. "It's not a guarantee, but at least you have a recourse to challenge the charge when you use a credit card," Kresses says. She adds that you should not share your credit card information until you are certain of what you are getting and you have decided you want to make the purchase.



A picture is worth 1,000 scams

Maybe you are looking at a photo of a stunning condo on a sugar-sand beach, or an image of a booze cruise on which young and beautiful people are having the time of their lives. Whatever it is, do not automatically trust that the photo is legitimate.

Hutt suggests doing a reverse-image search before buying anything online. To research an image that is on a vacation rental site, click on the image, save it to the desktop and then drop it into images.google.com. If you then see that the same condo has been listed in several different geographical locations, your scam-alarm should be sounding. "Reverse image is so easy — I would recommend it for everything," Hutt says.

Make sure there is contact information

If something goes awry in your plans, you will want to have a human you can talk to. "If the only way to contact them is an online form, or if it's just a generic email address, that's a red flag," Hutt says. Additionally, if you are unsure about something, find a way to verify the deal before booking. That might mean calling the actual venue where a festival is scheduled, or checking with an airline or hotel that is mentioned in a travel deal. Verify, by phone, whatever you can to be sure the offer is legitimate and that you will have a way to contact someone if you need to later on.

Be prepared to make a stink

If you cannot get the response you want from a customer service representative at a company, John suggests contacting it through social media or by going to the media. "I have found that customer-facing organizations, such as ticket providers or airlines, are very careful about their public images," he says. "They will often give you your money back if you can get a newspaper to raise your case with them."

Plus, by reaching out, speaking out and making your experience a part of the public record — whether it is about a vacation rental scam or a certain fated music festival — you might also be able to help someone else avoid getting bamboozled in the future.

"Fyre Festival, in particular, was just such a spectacular failure," Hutt says. "It shows that anyone can fall for a fraudulent scheme. We should use that as a warning."

WEEKEND: LIFESTYLE

FRANCE'S FENCING FORCE

French federation officially recognizes lightsaber dueling

BY JOHN LEICESTER

Associated Press

Master Yoda, dust off his French, he must. It's now easier than ever in France to act out Star Wars fantasies, because its fencing federation has borrowed from a galaxy far, far away and officially recognized lightsaber dueling as a competitive sport, granting the iconic weapon from George Lucas' saga the same status as the foil, epee and sabre, the traditional blades used at the Olympics.

Of course, the LED-lit, rigid polycarbonate lightsaber replicas can't slice a Sith lord in half. But they look and, with the more expensive sabers equipped with a chip in their hilt that emits a throaty electric rumble, even sound remarkably like the silver-screen blades that Yoda and other characters wield in the blockbuster movies.

Plenty realistic, at least, for duelists to work up an impressive sweat slashing, feinting and stabbing in organized, three-minute bouts. The physicality of lightsaber combat is part of why the French Fencing Federation threw its support behind the

sport and is now equipping fencing clubs with lightsabers and training would-be lightsaber instructors. Like virtuous Jedi knights, the French federation sees itself as combatting a Dark Side: The sedentary habits of 21st-century life that are sickening ever-growing numbers of adults and kids.

"With young people today, it's a real public health issue," says Serge Aubailly, the federation secretary general. "That is why we are trying to create a bond between our discipline and modern technologies."

In building their sport from the ground up, French organizers produced competition rules intended to make lightsaber dueling both competitive and easy on the eyes.

"We wanted it to be safe, we

wanted it to be umpired and, most of all, we wanted it to produce something visual that looks like the movies, because that is what people expect," said Michel Ortiz, the tournament organizer.

Combatants fight inside a circle marked in tape on the floor. Strikes to the head or body are worth 5 points; to the arms or legs, 3 points; on hands, 1 point. The first to 15 points wins or, if they don't get there quickly, the high scorer after three minutes. If both fighters reach 10 points, the bout enters "sudden death," where the first to land a head- or body-blow wins, a rule to encourage enterprising fighters.

Blows only count if the fighters first point the tip of their saber behind them. That rule prevents the viper-like, tip-first quick forward strikes seen in fencing. Instead, the rule encourages swishier blows that are easier for audiences to see and enjoy, and which are more evocative of the duels in Star Wars.



Competitors battle during a national lightsaber tournament in Beaumont-sur-Oise, north of Paris. In France, the fencing federation has officially recognized lightsaber dueling as a competitive sport.

CHRISTOPHE ENA/AP

WEEKEND: MOVIES



Sony Pictures

Brad Pitt, left, and Leonardo DiCaprio star in "Once Upon a Time in Hollywood."

'Once Upon a Time in Hollywood' (July 26)

Director: Quentin Tarantino

Cast: Leonardo DiCaprio, Brad Pitt, Margot Robbie

Tarantino says he spent five years writing as well as a lifetime thinking about the Charles Manson murders, which provide the backdrop for this End of the '60s story centered on a fading TV star (DiCaprio) and his longtime stunt double (Pitt) trying to negotiate the changing times and the passing of Hollywood's Golden Age. Oscar voters have long loved Tarantino as well as movies about themselves, giving "Hollywood" a one-two punch that could take it far into the season.

'The Goldfinch' (Oct. 11)

Director: John Crowley

Cast: Ansel Elgort, Aneurin Barnard, Jeffrey Wright, Sarah Paulson, Nicole Kidman

Crowley follows his lovely, understated romance "Brooklyn" with an adaptation of Donna Tartt's sprawling, Pulitzer Prize-winning novel about a young man who becomes enmeshed in crime after his beloved mother is killed in a terrorist attack. Last seen in "Baby Driver," Elgort has long been a star on the rise (he should have been cast as the young Han Solo) and, with this, it looks like he finally has the material to fully demonstrate his talent.



Sony Pictures

Tom Hanks portrays Fred Rogers in "A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood."

'A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood' (Nov. 22)

Director: Marielle Heller

Cast: Tom Hanks, Matthew Rhys, Chris Cooper

Do I need to say more than Tom Hanks

Oscars 2020 already?

8 movies that could win big at next year's awards ceremony

By GLENN WHIPP

Los Angeles Times

If Democratic presidential candidates are criss-crossing New Hampshire and buying vintage sequined jackets in South Carolina to boost their bona fides for the 2020 election, then it can't be too early to talk about next year's Oscars, right?

That's a rhetorical question. Of course it's too soon. But that's not going to stop me from

projecting a few contenders.

I'll list eight, in keeping with the number of nominated movies this year. And, as always, a disclaimer: This is an inexact science. I cannot account for weird lapses in voter taste (ahem, "Bohemian Rhapsody"), so you won't be seeing, say, "Pokemon Detective Pikachu" listed here. Though, based on the results of this year's Oscars, it could damn well win best picture, for all I know.



'The Farewell' (July 12)

Director: Lulu Wang

Cast: Awkwafina, Zhou Shuzhen, Diana Lin and Tzi Ma

Impeccable indie studio A24 acquired Wang's bittersweet film at Sundance and plugged it into a prime summer release date. It's easy to see both the commercial and awards potential for this story of a Chinese family reuniting after learning that the grandmother (Shuzhen) has terminal lung cancer — and deciding to keep the news from her. Early reviews lauded Awkwafina in the lead role, with "The Times" Justin Chang calling the film a "funny, moving, sensitively wrought dramedy."

BIG BEACH FILMS-SUNDANCE INSTITUTE/TNS

Gerwig's "Lady Bird," right down to the choice of Streep in the small but key role of acerbic Aunt March.

'The Irishman' (TBD)

Director: Martin Scorsese

Cast: Robert De Niro, Joe Pesci, Al Pacino

Scorsese returns to the mob world with "Goodfellas" alums DeNiro and Pesci and a blank check from Netflix. The long-gestating project follows a hitman (De Niro) possibly (yeah, right) involved in the disappearance of union leader Jimmy Hoffa. The film's hopscotching eras are realized through visual effects that "de-age" the actors, a costly process that ballooned the film's budget. Thelma Schoonmaker, Scorsese's longtime editor, cautions that we shouldn't expect another "Goodfellas," saying "it's completely different." Expect another full-court Oscar press from Netflix, complete with a significant theatrical run before it lands on the streaming site.

'Uncut Gems' (TBD)

Directors: Josh and Benny Safdie

Cast: Adam Sandler, Lakeith Stanfield, Idina Menzel

While everyone else awaits "The Irishman," the crime drama I'm craving is the Safdie brothers' follow-up to "Good Time" featuring Sandler as a jewelry store owner desperate to make good on his debts. Angry, unpredictable Sandler is the best Sandler, and I'm hearing this might be a career-best turn on the level of his work in Paul Thomas Anderson's "Punch-Drunk Love."

is playing Mr. (Fred) Rogers? How about that it's directed by Heller, who delivered the superb "Can You Ever Forgive Me?" last year, her follow-up to her equally excellent debut feature, "The Diary of a Teenage Girl"? Heller's presence provides assurance that what could be a mawkish story — journalist (Rhys) grudgingly accepts interview assignment with beloved icon and finds his life forever changed — into something that could be profoundly moving.

'Queen & Slim' (Nov. 27)

Director: Melina Matsoukas

Cast: Daniel Kaluuya, Jodie Turner-Smith, Bokeem Woodbine

After years making a name for herself directing such TV series as "Insecure" and "Master of None," and music videos with the likes of Beyonce and Rihanna, Matsoukas finally makes her first feature film, and it sounds essential. Written by Lena Waithe, "Queen & Slim" tells the

story of a black couple who attempt to flee to Cuba after killing a police officer on their first date. Universal has staked out a prime spot on the awards season calendar for a film that's a lock to prompt a lot of discussion in entertainment and op-ed pages.

'Little Women' (Dec. 25)

Director: Greta Gerwig

Cast: Saoirse Ronan, Emma Watson, Florence Pugh, Timothee Chalamet, Meryl Streep, Laura Dern

Yes, there was a film version of "Little Women" out just last year, but it wasn't written and directed by Greta Gerwig. Meanwhile, there have been three "Spider-Man" franchise reboots, a dozen Madea movies, 13 "X-Men" entries and a constant cultural churning of Batman and Superman and 007s. So don't you dare ask if we need another "Little Women." The cast is perfect in this follow-up to

WEEKEND: MOVIES



Photos courtesy of Focus Features

The apparent friendship between a lonely widow (Isabelle Huppert, above left) and a young woman (Chloe Grace Moretz) becomes obsessive in "Greta."

By KATIE WALSH
Tribune News Service

It all starts with a purse left on a New York subway seat. In these mean streets of "see something, say something," the only person who might possibly pick it up and return it back to the owner would have to be a fresh-faced rube, of course. Enter Frances (Chloe Grace Moretz), who toddles innocently into the glamorous web of Greta (Isabelle Huppert), a chic French woman who wiles away her day playing piano in her Brooklyn townhome. This good Samaritan act turns the key on the music box that is "Greta," Neil Jordan's cheeky and deliciously demented take on a paranoid horror thriller.

Veteran filmmaker Jordan shares a writing credit with Ray Wright on the film, who boasts a résumé of horror flicks. The B-movie pedigree shows up in this standard stalker script, but what elevates "Greta" beyond shock is the performances, as well as the insouciance Jordan deploys. The film is rich, lush and gorgeously crafted. And it's obvious he delights in using the classic suspense film toolbox, whether it be noir-ish shots of window blinds slicing light across an ingenue's face, or outlandish music cues from the brilliant score by Javier Navarrete, which coaxes — nay — demands the audience follow along on this twisted journey.

It's the women on screen who are the most crucial element to the arch and ironic tone that elicits the kind of reaction somewhere between a laugh and a scream. There is a knowingness to

the proceedings, a great big wink, and a sheen of artifice that tips "Greta" decidedly into the territory of camp. However, everyone is fully committed to the exercise, and excellent at that. Moretz is all-in and excellent as the wide-eyed and innocent ingenue Frances, whom you sometimes want to shake for her naivete as she makes all the wrong decisions when it comes to her newly acquired stalker, Greta. Maika Monroe, as her roommate Erica, relishes the role of the sassy, supportive friend.

But the beating heart and soul of "Greta" is Greta herself, French cinema icon Huppert. The film would not be what it is without her, and while that does count as a point against its own sturdiness, "Greta" is way too much fun as a thought experiment about Huppert's star persona. Casting the famously cool and reserved Huppert as a desperate stalker is simply an inexplicable and hilarious idea. Isabelle Huppert begging for attention? The mind reels.

Huppert, staring at her prey day and night from the sidewalk outside the restaurant where she works; Huppert, hysterically flipping a table in a crowded dining room; Huppert, doing a happy little murder dance in her stocking feet. With every line delivered with her signature arched eyebrow and sly smile, one wonders who we are to be deservings of such riches. Wherever deranged places "Greta" wants to go, with Huppert as Greta, we will surely follow.

"Greta" is rated R for some violence and disturbing images. Running time: 98 minutes.

Delightfully demented

Female leads dazzle in horror thriller 'Greta'

ALSO PLAYING

'A Madea Family Funeral'

A joyous family reunion turns into a hilarious nightmare as Madea and the crew travel to backwoods Georgia and unexpectedly plan a funeral, which threatens to reveal sordid family secrets in "A Madea Family Funeral," written, directed and produced by Tyler Perry. A review of the comedy — which Perry has stated will be his last "Madea" film — was not available at press time. "A Madea Family Funeral," starring Perry, Cassi Davis, Patrice Lovely and David Otunga, is rated PG-13 for crude sexual content, language, and drug references throughout. Running time: 102 minutes.

Lionsgate



WEEKEND: BOOKS

Story of hope

‘Parkland’ is a moving account of teenage survivors who turned to activism after school shooting

By JILL FILIPOVIC

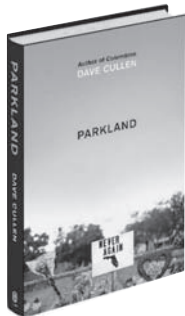
Special to The Washington Post

Here is a sentence you would not expect in a review of a book on one of the country's most notorious school shootings: “Parkland” by Dave Cullen is one of the most uplifting books you will read all year. The United States is a nation pocked daily by gun violence; we are a nation desensitized by the magnitude of our national bloodshed, a place where there are people — multiple people — who are survivors of multiple mass shootings. In an era of Donald Trump and social media, we are also meaner, reactionary, deeply cynical, depressingly divided. At a time of such national exhaustion, a book about a school shooting may not be the one you're inclined to pick up off the shelf. Do it anyway. “Parkland” is a balm.

Cullen, also the author of “Columbine,” has with “Parkland” carved out a macabre niche as the country's premier chronicler of mass school shootings. But “Parkland” is anything but dark. Very little of the book focuses on the minutes and seconds after Feb. 14, 2018, when a gunman walked into Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla., and killed 17 innocent souls. Instead, Cullen tells us what came next.

You know this story, but you don't. You have probably heard of the main players or seen their faces on television or read their missives on Twitter: Emma Gonzalez with her big eyes and shaved head first calling BS on the many enablers of gun violence. David Hogg, a quick wit in 140 characters, taking on Laura Ingraham and the right-wing news machine. Cameron Kasky sending Marco Rubio stammering and stumbling over National Rifle Association money. The March for Our Lives, one of the biggest rallies in American history, when Gonzalez gave a brief speech and then started down the camera, tears streaming down her face, for four excruciating minutes — Was she breaking down? Cracking up? — before finally saying: “Since the time that I came out here, it has been six minutes and 20 seconds. ... Fight for your lives before it's someone else's job.”

Cullen was there for these moments, but he also describes the before, when Hogg, after surviving the shooting, rode his bike back to school to document the events as a journalist, when Jaclyn Cordin, an organizational mastermind, trapped in the body of a petite, soft-spoken high schooler,



‘Parkland’ is a story touched by trauma, but it is not a story of trauma. It is a story born of violence, but it is not a story of violence. Instead, it is something both braver and more precise: It is the story of a carefully planned rebellion.

marshaled buses of students to head to Tallahassee to convince legislators that gun violence was a scourge worth fighting, when a ragtag group of drama nerds and student journalists got together in Kasky's living room, kicked out all the parents and decided something must be done. In Cullen's telling, the uprising was fast, organic and initially diffuse. The genius of the Parkland students came in coalescing around a highly disciplined core group while letting other branches grow where needed.

For a politics-hardened reader, stories of earnest activism and kids changing the world are boring at best, insultingly cliché at worst. Cullen deftly navigates what could have easily been a sentimental and patronizing story (not to mention a tedious one). He takes us shoulder to shoulder with his subjects, through their victories and their errors, drawing out the bits of their personalities that are flattened out on a TV screen — Hogg isn't angry but is a surprisingly good mediator of tense situations;



MATT MCCLAIN/The Washington Post

Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School student Tyra Hemans, second from left, embraces fellow student Emma Gonzalez at the March for Our Lives on March 24 in Washington.

Gonzalez is both ethereal and tactical, a force Cullen calls “the head and the heart.” Both are just teenagers.

Cullen brings us a large cast of characters, spending more time on the central players but touching on the double-digit list of people who made the March for Our Lives the movement it became: those who worried for a group of kids who flew forward full-bore, and those who were spurred to their own actions after the Parkland shooting. Cullen does not bore us with banalities or mawkishness. He manages to use the word “resilience” only once.

Parents play virtually no role in the Parkland kids' organizing, other than offering role-appropriate demands for chaperones, mental health counseling and sleep. But they do serve as a kind of Greek chorus to Cullen's hero narrative of the students. We see, from his telling, why adults made more risk-averse by experience (and brain development) could never have built this movement, which required risk-taking as much as naivete and determination. Where the voices of the adults do creep in, they are crucial reminders that this is fundamentally a story about children — brilliant, fabulous, preternaturally mature children, but children nonetheless. “I'm terrified,” Gonzalez's mother, Beth, tells Cullen. “It's like she built herself a pair of wings made out of balsa wood and duct tape and jumped off a building. And we're just, like, running along beneath her with a net, which she doesn't want or think that she needs.”

Among the most affecting are Manuel and Patricia Oliver, whose son Joaquin was killed in the shooting. “Tio Manny” becomes one of the only adults the kids will let into their work; he also works on his own, painting enormous murals he calls his Walls of Demand, then taking a sledgehammer and punching one, two, 17 holes in each one. Inside the holes he places sunflowers, part metaphor and part

memorial: On his son's last day on Earth, he brought Valentine's Day sunflowers for his girlfriend, Victoria. After Joaquin's death, Cullen writes, “Tori split the flowers in half, sealed them in epoxy, and made a necklace each for Patricia and Tio Manny, which they hold dear.” Joaquin, Tio Manny insists, is right there, not a victim but a leader of this movement. “Parkland” is a story of large-scale action. It is also a story of art, of creating beauty and ruins, and of many, many small kindnesses.

But the real genius of “Parkland” isn't that it's an inspirational tome. Instead, it's practically a how-to guide for grass-roots activism. And most important, Cullen, and the students he writes about, situate this movement as one place on a longer historical arc toward justice. Early on, the Parkland students decide to make their quest about more than the suburban school shootings that dominate the news; they find common cause with teenagers in cities who face endemic violence not inside the classroom but often on their way to it, and whose realities are shrugged off as a predictable outcome of living in “bad” neighborhoods.

The most significant turning point in the story is when the Parkland students meet kids from Chicago who run similar anti-violence organizations, one called BRAVE (Bold Resistance Against Violence Everywhere) and one called Peace Warriors. Peace Warrior Executive Director D'Angelo McDade, then a high school senior in Chicago, introduces the Parkland kids to Martin Luther King Jr.'s principles of nonviolence, a framework that profoundly reshapes and guides their work going forward.

Later in the story, when the Parkland students are on a national tour, they refuse to be interviewed in Chicago unless a local kid is interviewed with them. And what the Chicago

kids want is heartbreakingly simple: “I want to see happiness in my community,” says one Peace Warrior, Alex King. “I want to see the next generation, I want to see them being able to play outside. Being able to sit on the porch and nothing happen to them. Being able to go to their neighborhood park, being able to go to a friend's house. Being able to go to church. Being able to go to school and be safe. I want to see that joy.”

These are the most resonant moments of “Parkland”: When we hear the students themselves. Luckily, Cullen is an adept storyteller, synthesizing a cacophony of voices and using his own simply to carry a reader clearly through. He reacts to the story and the characters along with us, at times concerned, often awed, sometimes frustrated — for example, when the Chicago students, who are just as impassioned, bright and organized as the Parkland kids, see their tragedies and demands ignored by media-makers and politicians alike.

This is a story just a year in. For all of their bluster and effectiveness, the children at the core of Parkland are still young people damaged by an act of horrific violence, savaged by an unforgiving and ideological conservative media, and sometimes sniped at and shunned by their peers. How will that change them? Cullen doesn't quite get there, perhaps because the students themselves haven't gotten there yet, and because this is a story about an evolution in progress, not a revolution complete. Cullen's tale, though, makes you hopeful for what might come next. Optimism about the future: It's a strange feeling.

“Parkland” is a story touched by trauma, but it is not a story of violence. It is a story born of violence, but it is not a story of violence. Instead, it is something both braver and more precise: It is the story of a carefully planned rebellion.

WEEKEND: TELEVISION & DVD

NEW ON DVD

“Ralph Breaks the Internet”: The sequel to the 2012 release “Wreck-It Ralph” picks up with Ralph (voiced by John C. Reilly) and Vanellope (Sarah Silverman) happy in their respective video games. A crisis occurs when the driving wheel for Vanellope’s “Sugar Rush” game is broken. If a replacement isn’t found soon, her game will be unplugged.

Silverman and Reilly voice their roles with such love and concern for each other that it makes the animated characters seem deeply connected.

Other Disney animated films have had dark endings, but this is by far the most unsettling. A lot has to do with how light and fun the first two acts of the movie are. There are also some big problems with the conclusion that can’t be discussed without spoilers.

There are enough good moments in “Ralph Breaks the Internet” that you should not delete any ideas of renting or buying it. Just be ready for an abrupt tonal shift in the later going.



DISNEY/AP

“Ralph Breaks the Internet” is now available on DVD.

“Mary Queen of Scots”: The film begins with Mary Stuart (Saoirse Ronan), the teenage widowed Queen of France returning to her native Scotland rather than remarrying. Her plan is to reclaim her rightful throne, but Scotland is now under the rule of Elizabeth I (Margot Robbie).

The only reason for seeing “Mary Queen of Scots” is the far-too-short sequence where Stuart and Elizabeth finally have a face-to-face encounter. It’s made so powerful by the two stars, it could have been expanded into an entire movie.

Also available on DVD: **“The Possession of Hannah Grace”:** A morgue worker becomes convinced she has been taken over by a demonic force.

“London Fields”: Amber Heard and Billy Bob Thornton star in the thriller based on Martin Amis’ best-selling novel.

“The Mole People”: Johan Agar stars in the 1956 production where archaeologists come upon an unusual race of beings who shun all forms of light.

“Animal Kingdom: The Complete Third Season”: Ellen Barkin stars in the TV series about a very unconventional family.

“Border”: A customs official is drawn to a mysterious stranger.

“Willard”: Crispin Glover stars in this 2003 version of the 1971 film about a social misfit who makes friends with rats.

—Rick Bentley/TNS

BY CHRIS BARTON
Los Angeles Times

“Some stories you can’t tell,” one reporter grimly warns another over drinks in an early scene of the six-part series “I Am the Night,” debuting March 3 on AFN-Spectrum. “Some stories will eat you alive.”

It’s the kind of hard-boiled dialogue that helped establish a tradition of L.A. noir that includes Raymond Chandler and James Ellroy. As envisioned by “Wonder Woman” director Patty Jenkins, this miniseries continues that legacy with a compelling new angle on the grisly unsolved 1949 killing of a woman who became known as the Black Dahlia.

“This [story] really rocked me,” says Jenkins, who directed all six episodes of “I Am the Night” before starting work on the blockbuster superhero sequel-in-waiting “Wonder Woman 1984.” “I actually fully and really believe this is the truth of what happened.”

Adapted by Jenkins’ husband, Sam Sheridan, the series tells the story of Fauna Hodel.

Hodel grew up Patricia Ann Greenway and was raised by a black family in Sparks, Nev. Believing her biological father was African American, Hodel experienced the racism and segregation integral to the black experience in America, especially in the early 1960s, when much of “I Am the Night” takes place. Not long after high school, Hodel learned her actual birth name and fled an abusive home to Los Angeles to connect with her biological grandfather, George Hodel.

A prominent L.A. physician, Dr. Hodel came under scrutiny in 1949 amid accusations that he molested his daughter, Tamar Hodel, Fauna’s mother. He was acquitted, but the LAPD considered him a suspect in the killing of aspiring actress Elizabeth Short. The brutal and disturbing circumstances of Short’s death captured tabloid headlines and led her to be dubbed the Black Dahlia in one of the most famous true crime mysteries.

Jenkins was mesmerized by Hodel’s story, but she envisioned it as something larger in scope than another Black Dahlia-tilted feature film. As time went on, the likelihood of working with Hodel on her story appeared to grow slim, especially as Jenkins’ schedule grew crowded with the next “Wonder Woman” installment.

“Fauna was calling me and trying to get my advice about doing the project with someone else and saying to me, ‘But I still wish it was you,’” Jenkins remembers. “And I was saying, ‘Fauna, I’m just too busy. I don’t want you to have to wait for me.’ But I was telling the story to [‘Wonder Woman’ costar] Chris Pine, and he just freaked out: ‘You have to do that story. That story’s incredible.’”

Pine soon came on board to portray Jay Singletary, a PTSD-haunted newspaper reporter whose career was derailed by pursuing Hodel in the Dahlia case, and Jenkins and Sheridan soon found themselves creating “I Am the Night” in the tight window between “Wonder Woman” movies, with India Eisley cast as Fauna.

Though Jenkins’ career began with the 2003 feature “Monster,” this miniseries marks a return to familiar ground on a few levels. Before “Wonder Woman,” she directed episodes of “Arrested Development,” “Entourage” and, in another dip toward the world of homicide, the first season of Veena Sud’s “The Killing.”

“I like to work, and I like to experiment with other things,” she says. “I don’t want to have to be waiting for my next feature to get to work and try different things and tell different kinds of stories.”

‘NIGHT’ SHIFT

‘Wonder Woman’ director
Patty Jenkins returns
to TV for LA noir miniseries
‘I Am the Night’

Patty Jenkins

BRIAN BOWEN SMITH/Warner Bros. Entertainment

WEEKEND: HEALTH & FITNESS

iStock photo



Don't sweat it!

How your workout structure can affect your post-exercise mood

By SCOTT DOUGLAS

Special to The Washington Post

Are you usually in a better or worse mood after you work out? I start with this question whenever I give a talk about exercise and mental health. Like the trial attorney who asks only questions she already knows the answers to, I pose the query with certainty about the outcome. Research backs the near-universal observation that you almost always finish a workout in a better mood. Exercise leads to both types of good moods psychologists talk about: positive high activation (feeling alert, excited, happy) and positive low activation (feeling calm, content, relaxed).

So if you want to lift your spirits with exercise, the most important thing about your workout is that it exists. Anything is better than nothing. That said, how you structure your workout — how long, how hard, etc. — can supercharge the post-exercise mood boost.

Understanding how to construct a mood-lifting workout starts with understanding why exercise leads to feeling better mentally.

You've probably heard of endorphins, which are among the body's natural opioids and circulate in greater numbers during exercise. The exercising brain enjoys higher levels of endorphins as well as endocannabinoids (which act on the same receptors as the psychoactive ingredient in marijuana), neurotransmitters and other feel-good chemicals.

Another contributor to a calmer mood is the slight increase in core temperature that occurs during exercise, which reduces muscle tension. "After exercise, the nervous system is quieter, your muscles are more relaxed, and that feeds information into your brain that you interpret as a good feeling," says Carson Smith, a kinesiology

professor at the University of Maryland.

Your mood, however, is determined by more than what's going on inside your body. Exercise is a regular opportunity to hone your self-efficacy, which is the belief that you can accomplish goals you set for yourself. Pushing through a workout makes you feel better about yourself and reinforces the knowledge that you can be successful in challenging situations. For some people, the harder the workout, the better their mood after. "The pleasure of that achievement overshadows any sense of displeasure that existed during the actual exercise," says Panteleimon Ekkekakis, a professor of exercise psychology at Iowa State University.

With that background, here's what research and experience suggest about workout variables.

Type

Aerobic exercise tends to trigger more release of the feel-good brain chemicals than anaerobic workouts, such as weightlifting. But the best type of workout is one that you do. If you love spin class, go to it. If running is your thing, hit the road. If weightlifting is most appealing today and swimming calls tomorrow, heed those hints. Doing exercise you enjoy is the key to consistency.

Any form of purposeful exercise trumps incidental physical activity, according to a Heidelberg University study that asked subjects to record their moods after both working out and engaging in "nonexercise activity" such as climbing stairs or cleaning. Only the workouts boosted mood; in fact, the daily-life activities decreased feelings of calmness. So, make the effort to do some form of exercise. A short walk, a brief session of stretching or yoga, or a handful of body-weight exercises (planks, pushups, dips, etc.) all count.

Duration

Even a 10-minute walk around the block increases blood flow and gives you the chance to mentally regroup and improve your mood. A significant mood boost requires at least 20 minutes of exercise, according to most research.

Longer can be better, assuming you have the endurance and don't get tighter or more sore as you keep exercising. Endorphin levels, for example, start to surge after about an hour of moderate aerobic exercise, and increase exponentially after. In part because of higher endorphin levels, many people find that longer workouts tend to produce the pleasant calm of the positive low activation mood mentioned earlier.

Intensity

In terms of better brain chemistry, easy-to-moderate-intensity workouts are best. For example, a University of Arizona study found the biggest boost in endocannabinoid levels when people ran at an easy or moderate pace for 30 minutes. When the people walked or ran very hard for 30 minutes, their endocannabinoid levels decreased. (The subjects were fit runners, so for them walking slowly was a much lighter intensity than their usual workout.)

Keep in mind, though, that psychology plays an important role. A University of Wisconsin study found that people were in a better mood when they picked their own intensity level instead of a prescribed moderate-effort workout, even though their endocannabinoid levels were higher after the latter. David Raichlen, the anthropology professor behind the University of Arizona research, says, "My biggest mood boosts are after tempo runs or intervals," which are much more intense than a moderate-pace outing.

Higher-intensity workouts help you blow off steam during the session and bask in a paragon-of-virtue sensation afterward. Light-intensity workouts can be the best choice when you're fatigued and feel you need to decompress. With experience, most people learn how to match their pre-exercise mood with the workout intensity that will produce the best post-exercise mood.

Setting

There's a growing body of research in favor of "green" exercise, or working out in nature. If your schedule, the weather, the local geography and your preferred type of exercise allow it, make the effort to get outside to play.

You don't have to go deep in the woods to get a nature boost. A Scottish study looked at people's brain waves as they strolled through three sections of Edinburgh — a shopping area, an urban park and a busy commercial district. During the eight to 10 minutes the people were in the park, brain activity associated with frustration and long-term arousal fell, while activity associated with meditation and calmness rose.

Timing

If you're on a conventional schedule, there's much to be said for a morning workout that puts you in a better mood as you head into the day's responsibilities. Of course, there's also much to be said for a post-work exercise session that helps you rest emotionally.

Some research and lots of anecdotal evidence favor morning exercise for the simple reason that, with fewer claims on your time at sunrise, you're more likely to do it. But remember: The best workout for a mood boost is one that happens. Midday or early-evening exercise might mesh better with your schedule.

WEEKEND: FAMILY

'It's a wild ride'

Online DNA search leads woman to 15 half-siblings

By NARA SCHOENBERG
Chicago Tribune

Morgan Richardson was out on a walk one evening when she got a cellphone notification: The DNA testing website she was using had found a new relative.

Richards stopped on the street to check the details, and that's how she discovered, at age 31, that she had a half-sibling she'd never seen or heard of before.

"It's exciting, but it is a little bit jarring," said Richardson, who was conceived via a sperm donor and has found 15 half-siblings in the past four years.

"I always wonder, 'What do they do?' 'Where do they live?' 'What are they like?' 'What's their experience as a donor-offspring child?'"

Richardson, a multimedia artist who lives in Chicago's Pilsen neighborhood, was mostly curious about her donor and her ancestors' countries of origin when she started her DNA search. But 23andMe quickly found a half-sibling, launching her on a journey that's increasingly common in the age of consumer DNA testing.

At the nonprofit Donor Sibling Registry, director Wendy Kramer said she and her son Ryan, who was conceived via a sperm donor, learned of two half-siblings in January, bringing the total number of half-siblings they know about to 17.

"It's a wild ride, and we know it's not going to be over," said Kramer, whose registry includes half-sibling groups with more than 100 members. "In a donor-conceived person's life, every day there is the possibility of a half-sibling coming along."

The American Society for Reproductive Medicine doesn't set a specific limit on the number of children an individual sperm donor is allowed to produce, but its guidelines say "it has been suggested" that in an area with a population of 800,000, limiting a donor to 25

births would avoid any significant added risk that half-siblings would meet without knowing their common ancestry and have children together.

For as far back as she can remember, Richardson knew how she and her twin sister Lauren were conceived. Her mother, a math teacher, was 35 and divorced when she made what was, at the time, an unusual decision: She decided to become a single mom via in vitro fertilization.

"She was such a tremendous mother that I never felt that there was something wrong with only having one parent," Richardson said. "She was really caring, and I didn't feel like I was missing out on anything."

Still, when Richardson was in her 20s, she decided she wanted to know more about her family's origins. Her mother, who had died of breast cancer when Richardson was 16, came from a family that Richardson had been told was "mostly German," but was that the whole story? She also was interested in learning more about her biological father, who was found by one of Richardson's half-siblings in January with the aid of the DNA search.

Richardson, who also works as a case manager at a youth emergency shelter, submitted her DNA to 23andMe, which determined that she was mostly British and Irish, with some German, French and Eastern European.

But that wasn't the only revelation. The website gives you the option of seeing matches with consenting DNA relatives and allowing them to see matches with you. Richardson quickly found that she had a half-sibling. But there was one problem: That person had never been told he was conceived via a sperm donor, and he thought there must be some mistake. After a while, he stopped responding to Richardson's messages.

Kramer said many of the half-siblings now being identified by DNA

testing websites don't know they were conceived via sperm donors, and when they find out, they react in a variety of ways.

"In our research, what we found, surprisingly, is that the No. 1 emotion that people feel when they find out as adults is relief," she said.

"For a lot of them, they always felt there was something off — either they were adopted, or maybe their mother had an affair. So they suspected something, but even when they pressed their parents, their parents denied it."

It can feel good to know that your intuition was correct and you weren't just imagining things, Kramer said, but there can also be anger that you weren't told the truth.

Richardson's second match with a biological half-sibling came about six months after the first. This time her half-brother, who is 30 and lives in Toronto, knew he was donor-conceived and wanted to communicate. The half-siblings messaged each other, became Facebook friends and video-chatted. They got along well, discovered a shared interest in the arts and noticed a family resemblance.

"It's so strange. I can see myself in your eyes," Richardson told her Toronto half-sibling when he visited her in Chicago, adding that she's been told she has kind eyes. "I've been told I have kind eyes too," he said.

Richardson's half-sibling matches started coming faster in 2017, at first from 23andMe, and then from Ancestry.com, which Richardson's twin sister, Lauren, a site manager at a college readiness outreach program in Ann Arbor, Mich., joined in 2018. There was also a match that came from the Donor Sibling Registry.

Today, there are so many Richardson-related half-siblings that the group has attempted to streamline the entry process for new members with spreadsheets and a Facebook group.

THE MEAT AND POTATOES OF LIFE

Lisa Smith Molinari



Smug GPS doesn't always know best

Last week, I hobbled over our frozen lawn toward my salt-encrusted car, balancing a to-go cup of coffee and two bags slung over each shoulder. It's a hassle running errands during the doldrums of winter. Opening the gritty driver's door, I set my coffee in the center console's cup holder, then decided to hurt my purse and tote bag across the driver's side into the passenger's seat. Of course, my purse strap caught the handle of the to-go cup as it flew over the console, splattering coffee on the seats, windows, dashboard, floor mats and my white winter coat.

"Gimme a break," I mumbled, subconsciously referencing the spring getaway that would encourage me to survive the godforsaken winter.

This year, Francis and I are taking trip to the British Isles to see our daughter, who is spending a semester abroad. A rented London apartment will serve as home base during most of our trip, but we will also explore the Irish countryside for four days, with only a rental car and a GPS to guide us.

Though excited, bad memories of relying on a GPS during a spring break trip in Italy 10 years ago have me worried.

I was driving our kids from our German duty station to Venice, to board an Italian cruise ship for one final hurrah before we moved back to the States. In Austria, I stopped on the side of a winding mountain road because Lilly was car sick, hoping our GPS would lead us to the restroom. We squealed around three more hairpin turns before spotting our Tyrolean guest house. "There it is!" I yelled with relief.

The owner showed us to two rooms at opposite ends of the hall. After eating the dinner I'd packed for us, we were snug in our respective rooms. Anna and Lilly's huge bed looked like a giant coconut creme pie mounded with feathery white cotton. I drifted off in the room I shared with Hayden, thinking of the fun we would have during the days to come.

"Mom, Lilly threw up in our bed!" Anna startled me in the darkness. I stumbled to my feet and followed her down the hall.

Opening their door, I found complete carnage. The marshmallow white bed had turned into a veritable crime scene. The half-digested dinner was pooled in the center of the crisp white linens.

In an attempt to mitigate the damages, Lilly had dabbed the mess with a bath towel, managing to slot it on herself, the carpet, the bathroom floor and two light switches.

Obviously, Lilly wasn't car sick. She had a stomach virus. For two hours I scrubbed, scraped, rinsed, dipped and squeaked away the horrific mess. I found clean linens in a hallway closet and put poor Lilly back to bed.

In the morning, I left an apology note and some extra cash on the stained mattress, and set the GPS to take us the "fast route" straight to our cruise ship in Venice.

Instead of sending us to the nearby freeway to the south, our GPS directed us east into the snowy mountains. Believing that it knew better, I did as instructed.

An hour later, we were 2,000 meters above sea level. Another hour later, police signs directed us onto a dirt detour around an avalanche covering the road. Then, after making it through the Alps, we crossed into the Dolomites.

Was this a sick joke?

After four hours of zigzagging mountain roads, our GPS finally released us onto a straight highway toward Venice. I gunned the engine, racing at illegal speeds. Every time our smug GPS warned, "Beware!" and flashed the speed limit, I gritted my teeth and pressed the gas pedal harder.

I arrived in Venice frazzled, but satisfied that I'd taken two full minutes off our GPS' estimated time of arrival. Take that!

Technological advances in the past decade make another GPS-related spring break incident unlikely in Ireland, but I'm bringing a map, just in case.

Read more of Lisa Smith Molinari's columns at: themeatandpotatoesoflife.com
Email: meatandpotatoesoflife@googlemail.com

Morgan Richardson is seen at home in Chicago on Jan. 29 with a photo of herself with her twin sister Lauren, left, and mother Deborah. Richardson, who was conceived via in vitro fertilization (IVF), submitted a DNA sample to the DNA testing company 23andMe to find out about her ancestry.

TERENCE ANTONIO JAMES, CHICAGO TRIBUNE/TNS

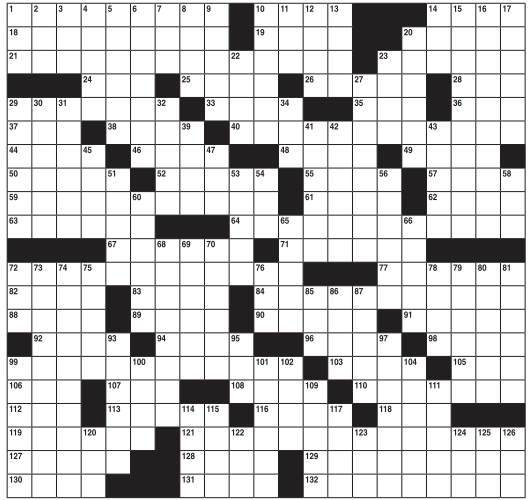
WEEKEND: CROSSWORD AND COMICS

NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

EVERYTHING EVENS OUT IN THE END BY ERIK AGARD / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Erik Agard, 25, is a professional puzzle maker from Gaithersburg, Md. He is the reigning champion of the American Crossword Puzzle Tournament. On average he finishes a Sunday New York Times crossword in a frighteningly quick five minutes. Last October he won \$66,802 in a three-day winning streak on "Jeopardy!" This is Erik's 32nd crossword for the paper. —W.S.

- ACROSS**
- 1 Solo partner
10 Multidecker sandwich
14 Stack at Starbucks
18 Word that follows "standard" and means something nonstandard
19 Abundant
20 Nettie's sister in "The Color Purple"
21 Likely inexpensive place to get one's hair done
23 During the time that
24 Baton Rouge sch.
25 Auctioneer's cry
26 Brownish tint
28 Final: Abbr.
29 En ____ (chess move)
33 Jolly time
35 Sports rival of Union College, for short
36 Chemistry unit: Abbr.
37 Wee devil
38 Cry like a baby
40 Tourist activity in northern Scandinavia
44 Backpack filler
46 "I dare you!"
48 Make a quick move
49 Chinese dynasty ended by Kublai Khan
- 50 It's groovy
52 Get to the bottom of
57 Villain's hideout
59 Source of call-ups, in baseball lingo
61 Prefix with culture
62 Virgil described its eruption in the "Aeneid"
63 "You got it, boss man!"
64 Posting that blows in the wind
67 Serenaded
71 Odyssey
72 Has little excitement for
73 Florentine : spinach :: lyonnaise : ____
82 Curry go-with
83 To be abroad?
84 Allen Ginsberg, e.g.
88 Baby beavers
89 Bird akin to the nene?
90 Arab country expelled from the Arab League in 2011
91 Green, in a way
92 Word cried before and after "all"
94 Governing org. of soccer
96 Reaction of shock
98 Analytics fodder
99 Bottom-of-page design choice
103 Spanish muralist José María ____
105 Actor Cariou
- 106 Place for a bouquet
107 Boston's Mass. ____
108 Pb
110 Away from the wind
112 U.F.C. fighting style
113 Get Wired again, say
116 Hotel visit
118 ____ Magnon man
119 Scarecrow portrayal Ray
- 121 "How lucky was that?" ... or a hint to the answers to the italicized clues
127 Seated yoga pose
128 Well-being
129 Seriously worry
130 What the Joneses may elicit
131 Later
132 "Crazy Rich Asians" actress whose stage name puns on a bottled water brand
- DOWN**
- 1 Bank offerings, for short
2 Fashion line
3 Fashion model Marcellie
4 Documents that cause executors
5 Tree resin used in fragrances
6 On the same wavelength
7 A.F.L. partner
8 Bullies
9 Grate on
- 10 Charging station for a smartphone
11 Rapper, ____ Yachty
12 Sci-fi saucers
13 Part of N.B.
14 Hula dancer's adornment
15 Subject of many conspiracy theories
16 Knocking out of place
17 End a lawsuit, say
20 Musical ____
22 Speak indistinctly
23 Erase
27 One of South Africa's capitals
29 Oink-filled pen
30 Don who won an Oscar for "Cocoon"
31 Converted splits
32 Later
34 Holiday marking the end of Ramadan
39 Feature of a Welsh accent
41 Winter Olympics host before Salt Lake City
42 Dreadfully slow
43 List in the credits
45 Weathers of striped shirts
47 Calendar column: Abbr.
51 Part of a trunk
53 Worker often found on hands and knees
54 Mini maker
56 Jargons
58 Bled



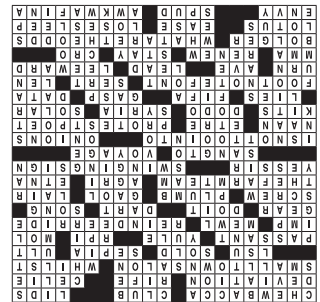
- 60 Not to be seen or heard by children
65 Tower construction material
66 Men
68 Infrequently
69 Howe nicknamed "Mr. Hockey"
70 Restrict with a string
72 Challenge for a stain remover
73 Popular Japanese manga series with a schoolgirl heroine
74 Counterpart of local channels
75 Beginning
76 Pranks, in a way, informally
78 Mini, for one
79 "How fancy!"
80 Like a tidied-up room, new
81 Bit of hair
85 Alternative to .net
86 Some Spanish babysitters
87 Art-studio prop
93 Alternatives to nets
95 HuffPo purchaser in 2011
97 Make easier to eat, as an infant's food
99 Clumsily drop
100 Finished
101 Like a set of measuring cups, typically
102 "Later, lu!"
104 Mother ____
109 Role in "Our Gang" or "Queen Sugar"
111 "To the Lighthouse" novelist
114 ____ milk
115 Swatting sound
117 "Jeez, that's hot!"
120 Man
122 The Sun Devils, for short
123 "No, you shouldn't have!"
124 Opus ____
125 Iniquity site
126 Springs for a vacation?

GUNSTON STREET



"Gunston Street" is drawn by Basil Zaviski. Email him at gunstonstreet@yahoo.com. Online: gunstonstreet.com.

RESULTS FOR ABOVE PUZZLE



STARS & STRIPES 15 YEARS IN AFGHANISTAN



The story of the U.S. military's role in Afghanistan, as seen through the eyes of Stars and Stripes journalists covering America's longest war.

Only \$14.99 with Free Shipping

ORDER NOW at www.stripesstore.com



FACES



Above: The original cast of "Beverly Hills, 90210" in 1990. From left, Brian Austin Green, Jennie Garth, Luke Perry, Shannen Doherty, Jason Priestley, Tori Spelling, Ian Ziering, Gabrielle Carteris and Douglas Emerson.

Top: Green, Garth, Priestley, Spelling, Ziering and Carteris.

Fox, AP photos

By YVONNE VILLARREAL
Los Angeles Times

Guys, Kelly Taylor is back. Sort of. Members of the original cast of "Beverly Hills, 90210" are returning for a six-episode event series on Fox, the network announced Wednesday — setting off a million text exchanges among diehard fans, no doubt.

Nineteen years after the popular young adult drama wrapped its run, Jason Priestley, Jennie Garth, Ian Ziering, Gabrielle Carteris, Brian Austin Green and Tori Spelling are reuniting on TV.

In a twist that surely beats that time Kelly joined a cult, the actors will not exactly be reprising their roles from the original series. Instead, they will play heightened versions of themselves.

Here's how Fox explains it: "Jason, Jennie, Ian, Gabrielle, Brian and Tori reunite when one of them suggests it's time to get a 'Beverly Hills, 90210' reboot up and running. But getting it going may make for an even more delicious soap than the reboot itself. What will happen when first

loves, old romances, friends and frenemies come back together, as this iconic cast — whom the whole world watched grow up together — attempts to continue from where they left off?"

"Beverly Hills, 90210" left an indelible impact on pop culture and an entire generation," said Michael Thorne, Fox entertainment president, in a statement. "Its powerful legacy is an important part of our network's DNA — bold stories not told anywhere else and bigger-than-life characters — and we're honored to bring back the beloved original cast members for 90210."

"Beverly Hills, 90210," about a group of friends navigating love and life from high school into their 20s in one of the premiere ZIP codes in America, became a blueprint for coming-of-age dramas. It premiered on Fox in 1990 and ran for 10 seasons — and launched the spinoff "Melrose Place."

The series was rebooted in 2008 by the CW and featured a new cast of young actors, as well as old favorites Garth, Spelling and Shannen Doherty reprising their roles as Kelly Taylor, Donna Martin and Brenda Walsh, respectively.

The new '90210' limited series is scheduled to air this summer.

NBC renews 'Brooklyn Nine-Nine'

Los Angeles Times

"Brooklyn Nine-Nine" will live to see another season.

NBC announced Wednesday that it has renewed the NYPD workplace comedy for its seventh season. It will be the second season to air on the network after Fox dropped the series in 2018.

"It's been one of our great joys as a network to give 'Brooklyn Nine-Nine' a second life," said NBC Entertainment's co-presidents of scripted programming, Lisa Katz and Tracey Pakosta, in a statement. "Cheers to Dan Goor, Mike Schur, Luke Del Tridici and David Miner, and our amazing cast and crew who each week turn New York's finest into New York's funniest."

NBC picked up "Brooklyn Nine-Nine" the day after it was canceled by Fox.

In addition to Samberg, the show's Season 6 cast includes Melissa Fumero, Stephanie Beatriz, Terry Crews, Joe Lo Truglio, Andre Braugher, Dirk Blocker and Joel McKinnon Miller.

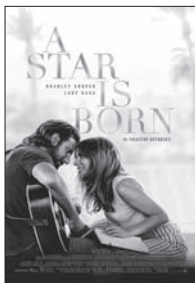
Season 6 premiered Jan. 10, and the series is averaging a 1.4 rating in adults 18-49 and 3.9 million viewers overall in live plus seven days, which is up compared with the numbers at this point last year on Fox.



NBC/TNS

Andy Samberg's cop comedy "Brooklyn Nine-Nine" was picked up by Fox when NBC cancelled it after five seasons.

Encore run of 'A Star Is Born' features more footage, songs



Warner Bros. Pictures

Can't get enough of Jack and Ally? Warner Bros. is offering more in an expanded version of "A Star Is Born."

From wire reports

Can't stop watching Lady Gaga and Bradley Cooper's Oscar-night performance of "Shallow"? You're in luck: Warner Bros. is bringing a special encore version of "A Star Is Born" back to the big screen Friday with nearly 12 additional minutes of footage.

The studio said Wednesday that the new edition of Cooper's directorial debut will feature extended performances of songs sung by Gaga like "Alibi," and an a cappella "Shallow," which won the Oscar for best original song. It also will feature brand new scenes between the two leads, Jackson and Ally, including a moment in which the characters write a song called "Clover."

The one-week engagement starts Friday on 1,150 screens in the U.S. and Canada.

As for that Oscars performance, Gaga said it was acting, not love, when she and Cooper sang their duet Sunday at the 91st Academy Awards.

Gaga discussed the emotional performance during an appearance Wednesday on ABC's "Jimmy Kimmel Live." The duet led online

posters to say the stars are in love.

The artist rolled her eyes and called social media "the toilet of the internet," saying it has hurt pop culture.

Gaga said, "Yes, people saw love and guess what, that's what we wanted you to see."

Gaga says it was a love song in a love story and they had "worked all week on that performance."

She said, "I guess we did a good job. Fooled ya!"

Arbitrator orders Fox to pay \$179M in 'Bones' dispute

An arbitrator has ordered 21st Century Fox to pay \$179 million in a dispute over profits with the stars of the long-running Fox TV show "Bones."

The decision revealed in a court filing Wednesday includes \$128 million in punitive damages against Fox executives for "intentional fraud and malice."

David Boranz and Emily Deschanel, the stars of "Bones" from 2005 through 2017, sued

Fox in 2015, saying it denied them profits by licensing the show to Fox's TV division and to Hulu for below-market rates. They were joined by executive producer Barry Josephson and author Kathy Reichs, who authored the novels "Bones" is based on. The case went to private arbitration in 2016.

Fox said it intends to fight the decision.

Publicist: Perry hospitalized and 'under observation'

A publicist for "Riverdale" and "Beverly Hills, 90210" star Luke Perry says the actor has been hospitalized.

Publicist Arnold Robinson tells The Associated Press the 52-year-old actor is "currently under observation" at the hospital.

Perry has had roles in a handful of films, including "The Fifth Element," "8 Seconds" and "American Strangers." He appeared in HBO's prison drama "Oz" and voiced cartoons like "The Incredible Hulk" and "Mortal Kombat." In recent years, he starred in the series "Ties That Bind" and "Body of Proof."

STARS AND STRIPES

Max D. Lederer Jr., Publisher
Lt. Col. Sean Klinker, Europe commander
Lt. Col. Richard McClintic, Pacific commander
Harry Eley, Europe Business Operations

EDITORIAL

Terry Leonard, Editor
leonard.terry@stripes.com
Robert H. Reid, Senior Managing Editor
reid.robert@stripes.com
Tina Croley, Managing Editor for Content
croley.tina@stripes.com
Sean Moores, Managing Editor for Presentation
moores.sean@stripes.com
Joe Gromelski, Managing Editor for Digital
gromelski.joe@stripes.com

BUREAU STAFF

Europe/Mideast

Elis Slavin, Europe & Mideast Bureau Chief
slavin.elis@stripes.com
+49(0)631.3615.9350, DSN (314)583.9350

Pacific

Aaron Kidd, Pacific Bureau Chief
kidd.aaron@stripes.com
+81.42.552.251 ext. 88380, DSN (315)277.2830

Washington

Joseph Caccchioli, Washington Bureau Chief
caccchioli.joseph@stripes.com
(+1)(202)886-0033
Brian Bowers, Assistant Managing Editor, News
bowers.brian@stripes.com

CIRCULATION

Mideast

Robert Reisman, Mideast Circulation Manager
robert.w.reisman@mail.gmail.mil
sacirculation@stripes.com
DSN (314)583-9111

Europe

Memphis@stripes.com
+49(0)631.3615.9111, DSN (314)583.9111

Pacific

Mark Mori, customhelp@stripes.com
+81-3 6385.3171, DSN (315)229.3171

CONTACT US

Washington

tel. (+1)202.886.0005
633 3rd St. NW, Suite 116, Washington, DC 20001-3050

Reader letters

letters@stripes.com

Additional contacts

stripes.com/contactus

OMBUDESMAN

The Stars and Stripes ombudsman protects the free flow of news and information, reporting any attempts by the military or other authorities to undermine the newspaper's independence. The ombudsman also responds to concerns and questions from readers, and monitors coverage for fairness, accuracy, timeliness and balance. The ombudsman welcomes comments from readers, and can be contacted by phone at 202.886.0005.

Stars and Stripes (USPS 0471900) is published weekdays (except Dec. 25 and Jan. 1) for 80 cents Monday through Thursday and for \$1 on Friday by Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45002, APO AF 96301-5002. Periodicals postage paid at San Francisco, CA. Postmaster: Send address changes to Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45002, APO AF 96301-5002.

This newspaper is published by the Department of Defense for members of the military and their families. However, the contents of Stars and Stripes are unofficial, and are not to be considered as the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government. As a DOD newspaper, Stars and Stripes may be distributed through official channels and use appropriated funds for distribution to remote locations where overseas DOD personnel are located.

The Department of Defense does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense or Stars and Stripes of the products or services advertised. Products or services advertised shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

OPINION

Why a higher wall will lower crime

By GARY ABERNATHY

Special to The Washington Post

To those who oppose President Donald Trump's declaration of a national emergency to build more border wall, the president and his supporters are racist, heartless opportunists who are merely appealing to bigotry and ignorance for political purposes.

To those who support building barriers and cracking down harder on the verbal and statistical gymnastics in which many engage to play down the problems caused by our porous southern border are just plain bewildering.

Cable news networks, radio talk shows and bloggers have been quick to adopt predictable narratives about the subject. The liberal outlets highlight heart-rending stories of families trying to reach U.S. soil for a better life or to escape violence or political persecution. Conservative outlets focus on the gangs, criminals and drugs crossing the border. Both story lines contain truth, but they seem to be cases of either/or, one or the other, depending on whom or where you watch and consume for news. It's no wonder the two sides can't begin to understand what the other side is thinking.

It doesn't help that too many who oppose the wall paint Trump's base as a coalition of largely white Americans who, in their simple-minded, isotropy, open anyone who isn't like them. Or that many people from where I come from think the anti-Trump forces don't care about the future of the country.

All I can do is explain what I hear most often here in southwest Ohio, a part of the Midwest where there are, admittedly, not a lot of people from elsewhere. Yet most people here, which is strong Trump country, recognize that they are the descendants of immigrants. They fully support legal immigration and we welcome newcomers into

our little rural town of about 7,000 about an hour east of Cincinnati.

The stream of stories and anecdotes describing the positive contributions of immigrants seldom makes clear the fight is over illegal immigration, not immigration in general. Most people, left and right, empathize with people who want to reach the U.S. in search of a better life, even those who try to enter illegally. But they also understand that embedded within any large group are some criminal elements. We see it as logical to take tough measures — including walls — to make it as difficult as possible for people to circumvent the legal means of entering the U.S.

It is standard these days for Trump's critics to argue that his claims of a border emergency are diluted by the fact that, as The Associated Press has noted, "illegal border crossings are down from a high of 1.6 million in 2007." That number, however, represents not how many people crossed illegally but how many were apprehended. By comparison, U.S. Customs and Border Protection statistics show apprehensions were down to under 400,000 in fiscal 2018.

But if even "just" 400,000 people a year are crossing the border illegally, that's still a lot of people! And that means from now through 2023, 2 million more illegal immigrants will enter the country; 4 million through 2028.

Another common argument is that "undocumented immigrants are considerably less likely to commit crime than native-born citizens." For millions of Americans, the response is "So what?" Using Texas conviction rates from 2015, the Cato Institute study cited by The Washington Post article indicated that about 1,800 of every 100,000 in Texas committed crimes, including crimes, with about 3 of them in every 100,000 convicted of homicide. By comparison, only about 900 of every 100,000 il-

legal immigrants are convicted of crimes, including about 2.5 of every 100,000 who are convicted of homicide.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., warned Republicans that if Trump's emergency declaration stands, it could lead to future presidents exercising such authority on the issues of gun control or climate-change regulations. How courts will ultimately rule on Trump's emergency declaration is unknown, but a president trying to second-guess Trump's own emergency declaration insist there is no new emergency, and on this his supporters largely agree. To them, however, the emergency has been long-standing, with no previous president (or Congress) willing to seriously address it with the urgency it demands.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., warned Republicans that if Trump's emergency declaration stands, it could lead to future presidents exercising such authority on the issues of gun control or climate-change regulations. How courts will ultimately rule on Trump's emergency declaration is unknown, but a president trying to second-guess Trump's own emergency declaration insist there is no new emergency, and on this his supporters largely agree. To them, however, the emergency has been long-standing, with no previous president (or Congress) willing to seriously address it with the urgency it demands.

Despite popular portrayals to the contrary, most Americans who support building more miles of walls and better securing the border on other ways are not driven by racism, hate or ignorance. They are motivated by what was once considered basic common sense. Just because statistics show threats already exist inside our borders is no reason not to use every legal means possible to prevent additional threats to our safety and security from outside.

Gary Abernathy, a contributing columnist for The Washington Post, is a former writer and former newspaper editor based in Hillsboro, Ohio.

Did Rep. Gaetz illegally intimidate Michael Cohen?

By HARRY LITMAN

Special to The Washington Post

The day before Michael Cohen was due to testify in an open hearing before the House Oversight and Reform Committee, Rep. Matt Gaetz, R-Fla., tweeted the following:

"Hey @MichaelCohen212 - Do your wife & father-in-law know about your girlfriends? Maybe tonight would be a good time for that chat. I'm going to be a little faithful when you're in prison. She's about to learn a lot."

Was this a crime?

Newspapers and social media broadly characterized Gaetz's tweet as a "threat" to Cohen, formerly President Donald Trump's personal lawyer, and it's a felony to issue a threat meant to influence, delay or prevent a witness' testimony before Congress. Gaetz's tweet was no doubt obnoxious and foul, but was it criminal? Here is how a federal prosecutor would approach that question.

Prosecutors allege particular crimes and at the end of the day must march through the elements of the relevant statute and prove each one beyond a reasonable doubt. In this case, that means 18 U.S.C. § 1512 (b) — it's not the only possibly applicable statute, but it's the most likely one — which makes it a felony to, in pertinent part, threaten or intimidate someone with intent to influence, delay or prevent their testimony in an official proceeding, such as Wednesday's congressional hearing.

The first tricky question is whether Gaetz's conduct amounted to a "threat." Gaetz strongly denied that it was, while also apologizing in a subsequent tweet. One

might also argue that it was not a threat because Gaetz had essentially pulled the trigger. He embarrassed Cohen with allegations of extramarital affairs; the sting was delivered, so no threat remained.

Maybe, but look closely at that last sentence: "She's about to learn a lot." A reasonable interpretation is that Gaetz or someone else was poised to supply lurid information if Cohen proceeded with his testimony.

Whether the pivot point is Gaetz's intent. Arguably, he was just letting off steam and seeking to score political points, as occurs in our contemporary, debased political debate every day. Could a prosecutor really prove beyond a reasonable doubt that his intent was to influence or delay Cohen's testimony?

Tough call. Clearly this was more than conventional rough-and-tumble speech. And Gaetz's initial characterization — that he was simply challenging "the veracity and character of a witness" in "the marketplace of ideas" — was so far-fetched as to undermine any defense.

And because Gaetz is a member of Congress, a special potential defense arises. The Constitution includes a speech or debate clause providing that federal legislators cannot be penalized (the Constitution uses the word "questioned") "for any Speech or Debate in either House." In actuality, however, the speech or debate clause provides no protection to Gaetz's comment. It covers only "legislative acts." Statements to the press, for example, do not qualify, and Gaetz's tweet is even further afield than that from a normal legislative act or function.

Finally, federal prosecutors often will

decline to charge otherwise provable crimes for discretionary reasons. Here, for example, we have a single offending quote in the context of a particularly contentious moment in the Trump-Russia probe. A prosecutor might well conclude that it's not worth the candle to make a federal case out of it.

In the hours after the Gaetz tweet, I discussed whether he would be charged with several other former U.S. attorneys. Most did not all were declined, some because of the potential intent to prove, others for reasons of prosecutorial discretion. But the debate was robust. To my mind, Gaetz's conduct satisfied the statutory elements of 18 U.S.C. § 1512 (b). Moreover, given his powerful perch, it more strongly presented the evil the statute was designed to prevent. Put otherwise, a threat from Gaetz is more effective and imposing than one from a nameless opponent. On the other hand, the political system arguably provides the most fitting remedy, namely the opportunity to vote Gaetz out of office.

As the case unfolds, let's hope we play a final federal prosecutorial consideration, namely the need to be properly cautious about deploying federal charges, which can be ruinous. That means the tie goes to the defendant.

In the fantasy re-enactment of my former responsibilities, Gaetz barely skates out of legal trouble, never knowing how close he came to a serious criminal charge.

Harry Litman, a Washington Post contributing columnist, is a former U.S. attorney and deputy assistant attorney general. He teaches constitutional law and national security law at the University of California at Los Angeles School of Law and the University of California at San Diego Department of Political Science.

OPINION

What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by The Associated Press and other stateside syndicates.

Yes, the military draft should include women. It's obvious.

The San Diego Union-Tribune

Houston-based U.S. District Judge Gray H. Miller's ruling that it is unconstitutional to have a military draft that applies only to men can be seen as trivial or irrelevant, given that the draft ended 46 years ago, and few people, rightly, are clamoring for its return. Relying on volunteers has mostly worked very well for the military.

Nevertheless, Miller's ruling matters — and is grounded in common sense — because federal law still requires men to register with the Selective Service System when they turn 18. In 1981, when the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the male-only draft, judges thought it rational that women were not suited for combat. But in 2013, as Miller noted, the Pentagon dropped its ban on women in combat, saying that women who met gender-neutral physical health standards could serve along with men on the front lines.

But if the Pentagon hadn't made that decision, having a draft for only men would still have seemed dubious, given that the great majority of military jobs now require technical or other cognitive skills.

Change was likely coming in any event. The National Commission on Military, National and Public Service was convened by Congress in 2017, and was expected to call for ending the male-only draft in a report that's due next year. So why wait? Since Miller's ruling isn't binding on the Pentagon, military leaders and the Trump administration should consider changing the draft immediately.

The male-only rule is an anachronism.

Work rings hollow without vow to eliminate clerical sex abuse

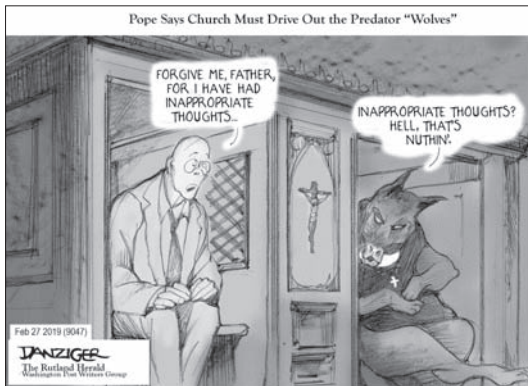
The New York Times

To many Roman Catholics worldwide, the very fact of senior bishops' public lists of victims of clerical sexual abuse and the pope condemning the evil in vivid language no doubt came as a shock. The main body of the church has long shifted away from the United States and Western Europe, and the faithful in Africa, Asia and Latin America have not been spared the blight of predatory clergymen and institutional deafness to the extent of Americans or Europeans.

That is likely to be the explanation given by the Vatican for the lack of concrete measures to combat the crisis after a meeting heralded as a mighty counterattack by hierarchy and activists. The goal against the evil ravaging their church. The global flood needs to see and hear first, and the change must arise from their own episcopate. They'll say.

It doesn't wash. And not only because activists in the West have long pledged to end change in the 17 years since The Boston Globe revealed systematic abuse in the Boston diocese. The revelations have accelerated in recent years — the grand jury report from Pennsylvania of abuse by hundreds of priests over many years; a similar report from Illinois last year. The activists are out about what they've been subjected to.

As the revelations have escalated, so has the rhetoric. "Prepare for divine justice," Pope Francis warned abusive priests at Christmas. "Ravenous wolves," he called them in his speech to the Vatican gathering. But when it came to action, the talk was once again of changing hearts and minds,



of changing a centuries-old culture.

It doesn't wash because what is happening is not a personal moral lapse, to be treated as a sin to address through penitence and prayer, but a crime in which the church has been an accomplice. Priests who are credibly shown to abuse children should be thrown out of the pulpit and identified to civil authority; bishops who cover up their actions should be laicized and exposed, and the order to do so must come from the top, from the pontiff.

The church has always been harsh on matters of sex, whether demanding celibacy of its priests, condemning birth control or prohibiting homosexual sex. Once the pope publicly acknowledges that priestly pedophilia is prevalent, the shock will not be softened by deferring action.

Of course, it is important that the church investigate what in its culture gives rise to such perversity. Pope Francis has demonstrated an admirable openness on many once-taboo issues, and his anguished remarks on the clerical abuse scandal no doubt come from the heart.

But a malignancy whose primary victims are trusting children must be treated by immediate and radical measures, not by appeals or hand-wringing. The time for that is past.

Warts and all, Cohen detailed many troubling Trump traits

The Washington Post

Former Trump lawyer Michael Cohen's Wednesday hearing before the House Oversight Committee was explosive not for what was new — but, depressingly, what was not new to anyone watching this administration with clear eyes. The take-away: President Donald Trump is a liar with a defective character — and, possibly, a criminal.

Corroborating allegations previously revealed in court documents, the president's former fixer said Trump was deeply involved in the felony campaign finance violation in which Cohen pleaded guilty in a Manhattan courtroom. Cohen said Trump asked him to pay adult-film star Stephanie Clifford \$130,000 shortly before the 2016 election to keep her silent about an alleged affair. Cohen provided a copy of a check, signed by the president, reimbursing him for the illegal payoff. "I am going to jail in part because of my decision to help Mr. Trump hide that payment from the American people before they voted a few days later," Cohen said. "He knew about everything."

Cohen also insisted that Trump got advance notice in July 2016 from GOP trickster Roger Stone that WikiLeaks was planning to publish documents damaging to Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton. If true, this means that Trump

lied to the country when he denied ever speaking with Stone, who is now under indictment, about WikiLeaks.

Cohen offered a similar account of the president's dishonesty on the question of whether Trump pursued a Trump Tower in Moscow during the campaign. "Mr. Trump knew of and directed the Trump Moscow negotiations throughout the campaign and lied about it," Cohen said. He stipulated that Trump did not order him to lie to Congress about the matter, as Cohen did, but explained that he "made clear to me, through his personal statements to me that we both knew were false and through his lies to the country, that he wanted me to lie." In other words, according to Cohen, the president's record of lies and concealment is substantial, and on far weightier issues than misstating a fact here or there. This is not the truth-bending that used to pass as normal for Washington politicians, but dishonesty that is far more breathtaking.

Cohen also offered a dishearteningly believable account of Trump's character. Calling the president "a racist," "a con man" and "a cheat," Cohen recounted that "while we were driving through a struggling neighborhood in Chicago, he commented that only black people could live that way. And he told me that black people would never vote for him because they were too stupid."

For their part, Republicans spent nearly all of their time attacking Cohen rather than defending the president. Yet Cohen repeatedly admitted guilt and apologized for his own role in the activities he described.

Rather than ignore Cohen's allegations, House Republicans might have taken his warning, learned over a decade carrying water for the president: "The more people that follow Mr. Trump, as I did blindly, are going to suffer the same consequences that I'm suffering."

Add trained school resource officers, but also define tasks

News & Record of Greensboro, N.C.

Placing police officers in more of North Carolina's public schools could be a positive step toward increasing school safety — if it's done the right way.

The school safety committee formed by Gov. Roy Cooper after the deadly school shooting in Parkland, Fla., last February has produced more than 30 recommendations, many of which are worth trying.

Among them, the State House's committee on school safety, which released its report in December, the governor's committee doesn't ignore the controversial matter of tougher gun control. Legislators tend to avoid that hot-button issue, even if it's obvious that mass shootings would be less likely if guns were not so readily available.

But one recommendation from the gov-

ernor's committee that may gain broad support is the call to put an armed police officer in every school. About half the schools in the state — mostly high schools and middle schools — already have armed officers, or SROs.

Not everyone agrees, however. Critics say that having police in schools results in the children winding up in court, and that minority children are disproportionately targeted.

That's why it's important to use armed police officers in schools the right way. An SRO is not supposed to deal with routine disciplinary problems. Teachers and trained administrators should continue to handle such matters, using law enforcement in extreme cases.

Ideally, SROs make schools more secure, but they also speak to classes and act as mentors and role models. The right SRO can help more students view law enforcement as a force for good, worthy of respect. That's why more SROs must be accompanied by more money for training — another of the recommendations.

SROs in more schools could be an important part of increased safety. The governor's committee has at least one thing exactly right: We need to be proactive, to make schools safer now, not until after another deadly shooting.

Results show Oscars diversity effort still a work in progress

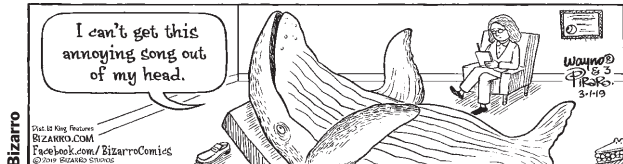
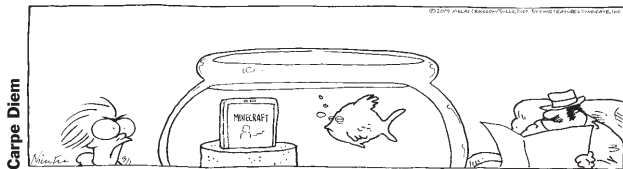
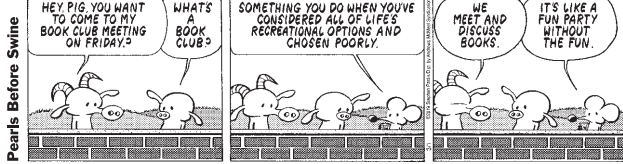
Los Angeles Times

Four years since the #Oscarswhite hashtag-borne, the Oscars ceremony saw a record-rendering of diversity: In addition to seven black artists receiving awards in multiple categories, Asian filmmakers won best documentary and best animated short, Mexican filmmaker Alfonso Cuarón won best director, and a single nonwhite, non-Asian actor won best supporting actor. And best foreign language film — and a group of young female filmmakers won best documentary short for a film about the stigma associated with menstruation. That's a welcome sea change for a motion picture academy so hidebound four years ago. But the academy must do more to make color in any of the four acting categories. Since then, the academy has swelled its ranks with hundreds of new voting members who are women and people of color.

The increase in diversity, however, didn't prevent Oscar voters from making some controversial choices about film centered on people of color. Most of the friction was over the awards (notably, the Oscars for best picture and best original screenplay) going to "Green Book," a film about a racist white man who takes a job chauffeuring a gifted black concert pianist around the South. The film's success, critics say, and there are many, the awards for "Green Book" showed that Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences voters still fall for the old "white savior" tropes and films that resolve deep-seated conflicts with feel-good Hollywood endings by the time the final credits roll.

It's generated by those statuettes wasn't abated by the presence of Octavia Spencer among the movie's mostly white male producers, or by actor Mahershala Ali, who played the pianist, winning for best supporting actor. Nor did the Oscar that Spike Lee collected for adapted screenplay (along with a best script co-writer) for "BlackKkKlansman" quell discontent on Twitter.

In the end, this competition should be about the best performance and the best work. And it is inevitable that more talented people will lose an Oscar night than win. The goal is to make the academy more inclusive in the membership and in the business so that a wider vast array of stories is told on film and championed by the academy. Judging from the nominees and winners, the industry is going in the right direction. The real achievement will come when a movie is passed over, and no one assumes it's because of racism or sexism.



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13					14			
15				16					17			
			18						19			
20	21					22	23					
24					25					26	27	28
29				30						31		
32			33							34		
			35						36			
37	38	39					40					
41					42	43					44	45
46					47					48		
49					50					51		

ACROSS

- 1 Steal from
- 4 Highlander
- 8 Streamlet
- 12 Historic period
- 13 String
- 14 Tom Joad,
- 15 Bridgetown's
- 17 "It's — real!"
- 18 Intends
- 19 Tropical fruit
- 20 Jazz genre
- 22 Piece of work
- 24 Priests' garments
- 25 "Excellent work!"
- 29 Espionage org.
- 30 Spectrum creator
- 31 Ms. Thurman
- 32 Wavering
- 34 Twain hero
- 35 Sharp tooth
- 36 Clearheaded
- 37 Cream-filled
- 40 Arrive
- 41 Jai —
- 42 Chocolatey
- 46 Give up
- 47 Carry on
- 48 Citrus drink
- 49 Crystal gazer
- 50 Eye part
- 51 U.K. fliers

DOWN

- 1 Civil War soldier
- 2 Man-movie link
- 3 Whom Pilate
- 12 Historic period
- 4 Rascal
- 5 Atlantic catches
- 6 Granada gold
- 7 QB stats
- 8 Hearty
- 9 Furniture brand
- 10 Actor Schreiber
- 11 Sultry Horne
- 16 Life stories
- 19 Site of Apra
- 20 "Coffee Cantata"
- 21 Writer Wiesel
- 22 Rubber gasket
- 23 Nuisance
- 25 Mom's mom
- 26 Place to get
- 31 Not as certain
- 34 Seethe
- 36 Theater boxes
- 37 Campaign-
- 38 Fonda's
- 39 Lose color
- 40 406, in Roman
- 42 Calendar
- 43 Eg. and
- 44 Oklahoma city
- 45 Ump

Answer to Previous Puzzle

L	O	B	E		H	I	T		P	O	S	T
A	L	A	S		A	D	O		E	N	Y	A
N	A	R	C		V	A	N		A	E	R	O
D	Y	N	A	M	O		O	A	R	S		
						P	I	C	K	E	T	
P	A	W	E	D		I	N	E		D	I	Y
A	C	H	E		U	N	D		F	E	T	E
S	A	O		M	P	G		H	A	D	E	S
T	I	C	K	E	T	S	T		S	T	U	B
						A	N	N		A		
F	A	R	O		K	A	Y		R	E	M	O
A	B	E	T		E	R	S		G	A	I	L
B	A	S	S		S	A	T		E	R	T	E

3-1

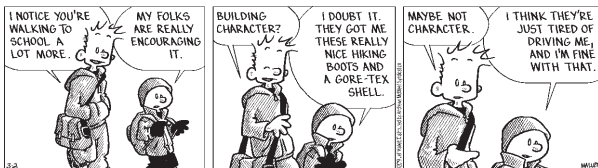
CRYPTOQUIP

X Y M H C M D L G T Z E Y Q J
C Y M D T L T Q J B T J P L Q Y B P T J
L M U C H B Q Y C Y M X Y P U U T J X
Z P J X H P X Q : B G Q Z T B B Z Q
C P W L P Z W .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: TOMORROW WE PLAN TO CAPTURE A BUNCH OF LARGE, FLAT FISH. YES, WE'LL BE CATCHING SOME RAYS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: L equals C

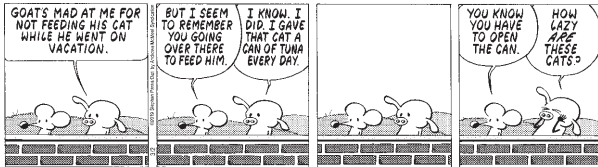
Frazz



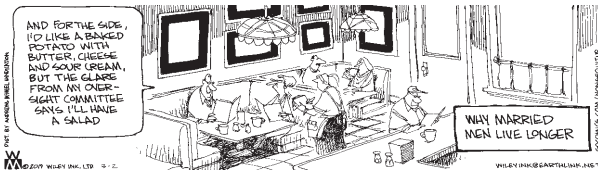
Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



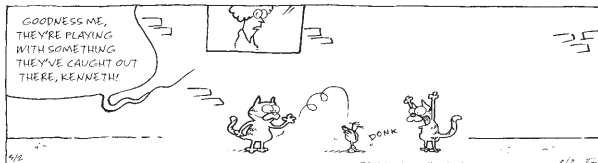
Non Sequitur



Candorville



Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11
12						13				14		
15						16				17		
18						19				20		
				21	22			23	24			
25	26	27						28		29	30	31
32								33				
34						35		36				
						37		38				
39	40	41			42	43			44	45	46	47
48					49					50		
51					52					53		
54					55					56		

ACROSS

- Biting remark
- Spheres
- Victory
- Skin care brand
- Joel or Ethan of Hollywood
- Parisian pal
- Hourly pay
- Batman's hood
- Beer container
- Rebuff
- Acting coach
- Hagen
- Crazy
- Actor Brynner
- 23 Old Olds
- 25 Mourn
- 28 Hit song by the Oak Ridge Boys
- 32 Grown-up
- 33 Snake poison
- 34 Autobiography
- 36 Herbal tea
- 37 Geese formation
- 38 Computer key
- 39 Lose color
- 42 TiVo precursor
- 44 Idle or Clapton
- 48 Khan title
- 49 Close
- 50 Handle
- 51 Dict. info
- 52 Adriatic port
- 53 Author Hunter

- Bygone jet
- Staff leader?
- Faxed

DOWN

- Fiddle sticks
- Arkin of "Argo"
- Prego rival
- 1957 Everly Brothers song
- Supernatural
- Cheer (for)
- Caveat word
- NBC sketch show
- Texas city
- Apple computer
- 11 Boy, in Barcelona
- 20 Features of romantic comedies
- 22 Loosen
- 24 Graceland idol
- 25 Felon's flight
- 26 Citric beverage
- 27 Silent
- 29 Pig-poke link
- 30 Director Howard
- 31 Soul, to Sartre
- 35 Disclose
- 36 "Fabi"
- 39 Craze
- 40 Mollows
- 41 Loony
- 43 Give a darn
- 45 Carry on
- 46 One-named supermodel
- 47 Penny
- 49 "The Voice" network

Answer to Previous Puzzle

ROB	SCOT	RILL	
ERA	CORD	OKIE	
BARB	ADOS	BEEN	
	AIMS	GUAVA	
BEBOP	OPUS		
ALBS	GREAT	JOB	
CIA	PRISM	UMA	
HESITANT	FINN		
	FANG	LUCID	
PUFFS	COME		
ALAT	FUDGE	BAR	
CEDE	RAVE	ADE	
SEER	IRIS	RAF	

3-2

CRYPTOQUIP

SJJM SGJJ HN JFTNQ HZJ

ZJPMHZZSAM KGPWHLWJ NS

GJPBLFO MJBNEV NG NGPFOJV,

LS QNA VN TALWJ.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: GROUP OF CHILDREN PROFICIENT IN A CERTAIN COMPUTER PROGRAMMING LANGUAGE: THE LITTLE PASCALS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: M equals L

Coming
March 7, 2019

STARS  AND STRIPES®

Presents

FORCE FOR HIRE

A STARS AND STRIPES PODCAST

A new podcast from the unique perspective only Stars and Stripes can provide.

Join us as we examine the influence of private military contracting on today's armed forces.

Explore the culture, history, myths and facts of the new reality of modern warfare.

Listen March 7 on



and on **Stripes.com**

Hosted by Michelle Harven and
Air Force veteran Desmon Farris.



FREE AD Guidelines:

- Free ads are available only DOD ID Card holders selling personal merchandise.
- Ads may contain up to 32 words. All Ads must contain price and contact information. No websites will be accepted in Free ads.
- Stars and Stripes reserves the right to re-classify, rewrite and reject any ads.

STARS AND STRIPES CLASSIFIED

Go to stripes.com to place your free ad. *Sell fast! Buy fast*

When you see this camera icon go to stripes.com to view the uploaded photo.

	EUROPE	MIDDLE EAST	PACIFIC
Advertising	Kristi Kimmel kimmel.kristi@stripes.com +49(0)631-3615-9013 DSN 314.583.9013	Kristi Kimmel kimmel.kristi@stripes.com +49(0)631-3615-9013 DSN 314.583.9013	Ichiro Katayanagi CustomerHelp@stripes.com +81(3) 6385.3267 DSN 315.229.3267
Circulation	Van Rowell rowell.van@stripes.com +49(0)631.3615.9111 DSN 314.583.9111	Robert Reismann reismann.robert@stripes.com +49(0)631.3615.9150 DSN 314.583.9150	Mari Matsumoto SSPCirculation@stripes.com +81(3) 6385.3171 DSN 315.229.3171
Reader Letters	letters@stripes.com	letters@stripes.com	letters@stripes.com

Classifieds EUROPE

For information on Commercial Rates: CIV: 0631-3615-9012 or DSN: 583-9012

Automotive 140

Announcements 040

Autos for Sale - Germany 142

Tax Assistance 940

SELLER BEWARE

Individuals placing classified advertising should use discretion in concluding the sale of their property. Not all potential buyers are reputable or honest. Stars and Stripes suggests that you take precautions to determine that potential buyers are reputable and will be able to fulfill the terms of the sale. Stars and Stripes is not liable for the contractual relationship between sellers and buyers of merchandise advertised in the newspaper or on the web site.

SCAM FADS

Classified scams can target both sellers and buyers with classified advertisements.

Be aware of the common red flags.

Some of the latest Scam fads are:

- Vehicle buyers wanting to buy right unseen and have the vehicle shipped through an agent using paypal.
- People saying Free Dog (different breeds) for adoption.

Auto - Quality Pre-owned US SPEC Vehicles
www.vileckhaus.com
Free Europe-wide delivery

Travel 1000

"Winter in Garmisch"
Hotel Forsthaus Oberu & km
H of Garmisch Hot tub/sauna
3hour PP. Dbl. occp. free brkfst.
dogs welcome. 0864-9120
www.forsthaus-oberau.de

H&R BLOCK®

Germany H&R Block Tax
Offices Get face-to-face tax help.

Ramstein Wiesbaden Vileck
06371-8020410 06134-259693 01735-736112

Email: eclemons@hrblock.com

Free Classifieds!

Visit Stripes.com for details. | STARS AND STRIPES

Want a better picture?

You'll get one – just by reading
Stars and Stripes
military news coverage.
*In print • Online at stripes.com •
Mobile for Android, iPhone & iPad*
No one covers the bases the way we do.

STARS AND STRIPES

However you read us, wherever you need us.

Classifieds PACIFIC

PacificClassifieds@stripes.com

JAPAN DSN: 229.3276 Civ: 03-6385.3276

OKINAWA DSN: 645.7418 Civ: 098-893.0292

KOREA DSN: 721.7146 Civ: 82.2.2270.7146

FROM USA Overseas: 011-81-3-6385.3276

Jobs Offered 630

GOOVER ENGLISH SCHOOL
3000ENHOUR LOOK FOR
TEACHERS We seek experienced
Native English teachers
who live on base. YOKOTA,
ATSUTSU, ZAMA, SFA, and
others or Embassy Compound.
Web site provides more information.
APPLY NOW! <http://www.gooverenglish.com>
042-727-8508

Are you in the picture?

Reading Stars and Stripes gives you a better handle on issues that affect you most.
No one covers the bases the way we do.

STARS AND STRIPES

*In print • Online at stripes.com
Mobile for Android, iPhone & iPad*

STARS AND STRIPES Relocation Guide

To advertise in the next Relocation Guide, reach out to Michael Davidson at davidson.michael@stripes.com or call 202-886-0014.

PCS-ing to LUKE AIR FORCE BASE?

Search for homes for sale at
www.LukeAirForceBaseSpecialist.com

G-II VARRATO II

Arizona State

Director at VAREP

Veterans Association of Real Estate Professionals



Lori & G-II
Coldwell Banker
Lori@LukeAirForceBaseSpecialist.com

Client Endorsements

<http://tinyurl.com/ClientEndorsementsLoriG2>



Patricia Garcia

Realtor®, MRP CalBRE #02037806

Email me at sandiegomilitaryspecialist@gmail.com
or call 619.372.9335
www.gluerealty.com

This program is specifically offered to help those who serve our community and go above and beyond to make our community and lives better.

- FREE APPRAISAL
- CLOSING COST CREDITS
- FREE HOME WARRANTY
- COMPLIMENTARY HOUSE WARMING PARTY

RELOCATING TO HAMPTON ROADS, VA?

Need Professional Property Management?
Realty Services for Those Who Serve!

ERIC W. GARDNER CAR, RET, USN

REALTOR®, GRI®, ABR®

Cell: (757) 805-6235

EricGardner@remax.netwww.FlyAwayHomes.com

RE/MAX Alliance

10000 Highway 100, Suite 100, Norfolk, VA 23502

OVER \$30K IN VET REWARDS 2017/18



Want a better picture?

You'll get one – just by reading
Stars and Stripes military news coverage.
In print • Online at stripes.com • Mobile for Android, iPhone & iPad
No one covers the bases the way we do.

STARS AND STRIPES

However you read us, wherever you need us.

Stripes

SERVICE DIRECTORY

The Daily Guide to Navigating the European Business Market



Attorneys

178

Court & Carpenter
MILITARY DEFENSE LAWYERS

**THE LOCAL CIVILIAN
MILITARY DEFENSE FIRM**

Sauerwiesen 2, Katerslautern-
Siegelbach, Germany 67661

(833) 446-UCMJ (x8265)
www.militarylawfirm.com

Dental

902

**AMERICAN
DOCTORS & STAFF**
Creating Healthy Smiles

- Certified Orthodontics
- American Dental Hygienists
- Family Dentistry

Ramstein Dental Care
06371 406 230
Poststrasse 1,
66877 Ramstein
Ramsteindental.com

Wiesbaden Dental Care
06119 887 26 50
Bahnstrasse 14,
65205 Wiesbaden
Wiesbadendental.com

TRICARE Preferred Provider

Transportation

944

VEHICLE SHIPPING SERVICES

- International Shipping
- Import & Export
- Inland trucking (U.S. & Europe)
- Door to door pick-up/delivery service
- Customs clearance
- All Risk Marine Insurance
- Auto Insurance (Germany only)

For Further Information Please Contact

GERMANY Phone: +49-(0)6134-2592730 Toll-free: 0800-CARSHIP (Germany only) E-Mail: info@transglobal-logistics.de WEB: www.transglobal-logistics.de	UNITED KINGDOM +44-(0)1638-515714 enquiries@carshipuk.co.uk www.carshipuk.co.uk	USA +1-972-602-1670 Ext. 1701 +1-800-264-8167 (US only) info@tgal.us www.tgal.us
--	---	---

For 2nd POV Shipments - Offices / Agencies near Military Installations

Trans Global
LOGISTICS EUROPE GMBH

Transportation

944

Ship Cars and Containers to and from the USA

OPENING HOURS: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mon - Fri
0800-522-6274 or 800-WSA-SHIP (972-7447)
For a free rate request, please email: info@worldwide-ship.de
Visit our Website: www.worldwide-ship.de



Off Duty? Amuse Yourself!

Concerts, events,
TV, movies,
music, video games,
celebrity antics...

Get entertained with...

STARS AND STRIPES

Want a better picture?

You'll get one – just by reading
Stars and Stripes military news coverage.
In print • Online at stripes.com • Mobile for Android, iPhone & iPad
No one covers the bases the way we do.

STARS AND STRIPES
However you read us, wherever you need us.

Round-the-world news for America's military.

Stripes.com supplies constant updates, on news of interest — including reports from our overseas military bases in Europe, Pacific, Southwest Asia and the Mideast, and coverage of the Pentagon and Capitol Hill. Also available on mobile apps for Android smartphones and as an iOS app for both iPhone and iPad.

STARS AND STRIPES

Mobile • Online • Print

Welcome to the Neighborhood.



You rely on your
military community
when you're far from
home.

We get that.

USE OUR COMMUNITY SITES TO CONNECT AND SHARE DURING
YOUR TIME OVERSEAS.

WITH BASE INFORMATION, TRAVEL TIPS, RESTAURANT REVIEWS
AND EVEN THE SCORE OF YOUR SON'S HIGH SCHOOL
BASKETBALL GAME, WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED.

VISIT ONE OF OUR
COMMUNITY SITES TODAY!

STARS AND STRIPES. **KOREA**

STARS AND STRIPES. **GUAM**

STARS AND STRIPES. **OKINAWA**

STARS AND STRIPES. **JAPAN**

STARS AND STRIPES. **EUROPE**

Stay connected and hey, welcome to the neighborhood.



You've never felt *more* like a local.



Whether you are searching for the best Sunday brunch in Okinawa or a family friendly get away in Germany, one of your **FREE publications** will help you embrace your new home so you can live your new adventure to the fullest.

STARS  STRIPES®

stripes.com/special-publications



Support the mission

When you're serving at a base in Afghanistan or one of the Gulf States, an American newspaper is an important link to home. At an isolated location like that, you can develop a real hunger for world and national news, stories with a military focus... news that really matters to you.

Stars and Stripes delivers thousands of papers a day downrange, seven days a week — and we count on financial support from our subscribers and advertisers to get those papers to our forward deployed forces. Why? Although part of the Department of Defense, Stars and Stripes is editorially independent and maintaining our independence demands that we meet most of our financial obligations through our own commercial activities. That means selling subscriptions and advertising. Your subscription can make a difference. Donating a mail subscription to a VA hospital or clinic can help even more.

Subscribe today: [Stripes.com/digital](https://www.strips.com/digital) or email MemberServices@stripes.com for more information.

STARS AND STRIPES®

NBA/NHL

Miami's Riley has eyes on both present and future

Heat president isn't giving up on playoffs

By TIM REYNOLDS
Associated Press

MIAMI — Pat Riley has his eyes on both the present and the future.

The Miami Heat president, in a video message to season-ticket holders that was posted Wednesday on the team's website, said he will not give up hope of reaching the playoffs this season — while adding that he expects the Heat to be in contention for perhaps two max-contract free-agent additions in the summer of 2020.

'We're chasing a play-off spot when we're young.'

Pat Riley
Miami Heat president

to be in contention for perhaps two max-contract free-agent additions in the summer of 2020. "We're chasing a playoff spot when we're young," Riley said. "And then we're going to be chasing some players that can come in. If we can get one or two players to come in with this group, this young group, then I think the sky's the limit for this team in the next couple years. ... In 2020, we'll have a lot of room."

The Heat started Wednesday 10th in the Eastern Conference, and have had six losing streaks of at least three games so far this season. But Riley wants no part of tanking for a potential top draft pick. The NBA changed the draft lottery odds for this season and beyond in an effort to discourage the practice, though it still occurs.

Just not in Miami. "I have never thought of anything else other than we want to



BYRON ANDERSON/AP

Heat center Bam Adebayo, pictured, is part of a young core of players — along with Justise Winslow and Josh Richardson — in Miami that team president Pat Riley hopes to complement with two max-contract free-agent additions in the summer of 2020.

be a playoff team," Riley said. "We want to think about the championship. I know, firsthand, because I played on a team that was the eighth seed in Phoenix, that went and beat the world

champion Golden State Warriors in the playoffs."

The Suns had the eighth-best record and the Warriors had the top record in the NBA during the season that Riley referenced,

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	45	17	—	—
Philadelphia	39	22	63%	5½
Boston	37	25	59%	7
Brooklyn	32	31	50%	13
New York	13	48	21%	31½

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Charlotte	28	33	45%	—
Orlando	28	34	45%	½
Miami	27	33	45%	1
Washington	25	36	41%	2
Atlanta	21	41	33%	7½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	47	14	70%	—
Indiana	40	22	64%	7
Detroit	29	31	48%	17½
Chicago	17	45	27%	30½
Cleveland	14	47	23%	33

Western Conference

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	36	25	59%	—
San Antonio	34	29	54%	3
Dallas	27	34	44%	9
New Orleans	27	36	42%	10
Memphis	24	39	38%	13

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Denver	42	17	70%	—
Oklahoma City	38	22	63%	4
Portland	38	23	62%	4½
Utah	34	26	56%	8
Minnesota	29	32	47%	13½

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Golden State	43	18	70%	—
L.A. Clippers	34	29	54%	10
Sacramento	31	30	50%	12
L.A. Lakers	30	31	49%	13
Phoenix	12	50	19%	31½

Wednesday's games

Atlanta 131, Golden State 123, OT
Miami 126, Golden State 125
Washington 125, Brooklyn 116
Chicago 109, Memphis 107
Portland 97, Boston 92
Dallas 110, Indiana 101
San Antonio 105, Detroit 98
Utah 111, L.A. Clippers 105
Milwaukee 141, Sacramento 140, OT
L.A. Lakers 125, New Orleans 119

Thursday's games

Golden State at Indiana
Minnesota at Cleveland at New York
Miami at Houston
Philadelphia at Oklahoma City
Utah at Denver

Friday's games

Charlotte at Brooklyn
Chicago at Atlanta
Portland at Toronto
Washington at Boston
New Orleans at Phoenix
L.A. Clippers at Sacramento
Milwaukee at L.A. Lakers

Saturday's games

Detroit at Cleveland
Orlando at Indiana
Brooklyn at Miami
Golden State at Philadelphia
Memphis at Dallas
Oklahoma City at San Antonio
L.A. Lakers at Phoenix
Milwaukee at Utah
New Orleans at Denver

Sunday's games

Portland at Charlotte
Utah at Chicago
Houston at Boston
New York at L.A. Clippers
Minnesota at Washington
Orlando at Cleveland
Toronto at Detroit
Memphis at Oklahoma City

1975-76. Phoenix won at Golden State in Game 7 of the Western Conference finals, and wound up losing to the Boston Celtics in the NBA Finals.

"You can't ever give up on 'make the playoffs,'" Riley said. "I don't care where you are. You get the right matchup, you get the right player that breaks through, you get the right call, and you're on to the next round."

Riley also said in the video that his vision for the Heat is similar to what's worked many times before in what's nearly been a quarter-century for him in Miami — build a young core, then add

veteran star power.

Dwyane Wade is retiring after this season, but virtually every one else in the Heat rotation right now is between 21 and 29. And when the summer of 2020 that Riley is pointing at comes along, Josh Richardson, Justise Winslow and Bam Adebayo all will almost certainly still be under contract in Miami.

"I think our fans are highly educated," Riley said. "As a matter of fact, they're fanatic about their team. But they're more fanatical when you win. And so I'm just as fanatic as our fans are when it comes to building a team."

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Tampa Bay	64	49	11	4	102	252	169
Boston	63	37	17	4	82	227	178
Toronto	64	34	23	7	75	196	186
Montreal	63	29	26	8	68	181	189
Florida	62	28	25	9	65	197	211
Dallas	64	32	27	5	67	178	200
Ottawa	63	22	36	5	49	189	235

Metropolitan Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
N.Y. Islanders	62	36	19	7	79	179	149
Washington	64	36	21	7	79	220	205
Carolina	63	34	23	6	71	187	171
Pittsburgh	63	32	22	8	74	218	197
Columbus	62	29	26	7	66	178	185
Philadelphia	63	30	26	7	67	188	211
Dallas	63	27	26	10	64	185	211
New Jersey	64	25	31	8	58	185	216

Western Conference

Central Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Nashville	66	37	24	5	78	212	188
Winnipeg	63	37	22	4	78	212	188
St. Louis	63	34	23	6	74	194	172
Minnesota	64	32	24	8	68	176	186
Colorado	64	28	24	12	68	212	202
Dallas	63	31	27	5	67	158	166
Chicago	64	27	28	9	63	215	239

Pacific Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Calgary	64	41	15	7	89	230	181
San Jose	64	37	19	8	82	229	201
Vegas	64	33	23	8	71	189	182
Arizona	63	30	28	5	65	168	185
Vancouver	64	27	29	8	67	178	195
Edmonton	63	26	30	7	59	175	211
Los Angeles	64	28	31	5	63	149	200
Anaheim	64	23	31	10	57	149	200

Note: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild card points for conference advance to playoffs.

Wednesday's games

Toronto 6, Edmonton 2
Calgary 2, New Jersey 1
Tampa Bay 4, N.Y. Rangers 3, OT
Colorado 3, Vancouver 2, SO
Chicago 4, Anaheim 5

Thursday's games

Toronto at N.Y. Islanders
Philadelphia at Columbus
Edmonton at Ottawa
Tampa Bay at Boston
Vancouver at Arizona
Dallas at Vegas

Friday's games

Pittsburgh at Buffalo
Washington vs. N.Y. Islanders at Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum
Philadelphia at New Jersey
Montreal at N.Y. Rangers
St. Louis at Carolina
Nashville at Winnipeg
Vegas at Anaheim
Colorado at San Jose

Saturday's games

Edmonton at Columbus
Chicago at Los Angeles
Pittsburgh at Montreal
New Jersey at Boston
Ottawa at Tampa Bay
Carolina at Toronto
Buffalo at Toronto
St. Louis at Arizona

Sunday's games

Washington at N.Y. Rangers
Philadelphia vs. N.Y. Islanders at Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum
Vancouver at Vegas
Colorado at Anaheim
Ottawa at Florida
Winnipeg at Columbus
Nashville at Minnesota
Chicago at San Jose

Injury-ravaged Penguins receive more bad news

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — The injuries keep piling up for the Pittsburgh Penguins, who hope the arrival of defenseman Erik Gudranson will help them deal with the loss of forward Bryan Rust and defenseman Chad Ruhwedel, both of whom are out indefinitely after getting hurt in a victory over Columbus on Tuesday.

Coach Mike Sullivan said Wednesday both Ruhwedel and Rust will be out "longer term."

Rust suffered a lower-body injury after colliding with Columbus' Adam McQuaid in the first period of Pittsburgh's 5-2 win. Ruhwedel suffered an upper-body injury in the second period, marring him the fourth member of the Penguins' blue line to go down in the last month, joining Olli Maatta, Kris Letang and Brian Dumoulin.

Maatta remains out indefinitely with an upper-body injury. Sullivan said Letang and Dumoulin are both "progressing" after getting injured Saturday.



Rust



Ruhwedel

Dumoulin is dealing with a concussion while Letang has an upper-body issue. Neither skated on Wednesday.

The 6-foot-5, 217-pound Gudranson gives Pittsburgh a big body to help out in front of its own net. He joked he thought he had made it through the trade deadline unscathed when his phone buzzed around the deadline on Monday with news he was heading to the Penguins.

The 27-year-old welcomes the change. He failed to find anything resembling consistency during his two-plus seasons with the Vancouver Canucks. Gudranson's minus-27 plus-minus ratio this season is the worst in the NHL.

"I didn't feel like I played that well there," Gudranson said. "I never got my confidence where it needed to be."

Sullivan believes Gudranson will give the Penguins — who currently hold the last playoff spot in the Eastern Conference — an "edge" down the stretch. "This is a guy that brings a different dimension," Sullivan said.

AUTO RACING

Rewinding up the momentum

IndyCar has plenty to celebrate as new season approaches

By JIM VERTUNO
Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas
IndyCar heads into 2019 with everything going in the right direction.

The series has a new long-term sponsor in Japanese communications giant NTT. Tire manufacturer Firestone has extended its supplier deal for five more years. A new broadcast deal with NBC is set to launch.

On the track, an already deep driver pool keeps adding veteran and rookie talent. And the series has added a new stop in Texas while bringing back an old favorite in California. IndyCar has even been exploring a return to Australia and possibly adding another international event to the American open-wheel series.

For long-time driver and 2004 series champion Tony Kanaan, the event to the American open-wheel series.

“Since I’ve been around ... this is the best year I’ve ever seen.”

Tony Kanaan
IndyCar driver since 2002
Racing, all signs point to a spectacular season that will open with Scott Dixon defending his fifth championship.

“Since I’ve been around ... this is the best year I’ve ever seen,” Kanaan said Monday. “By a long shot.”

The 17-race season starts March 10 in St. Petersburg, Fla., before making its debut two weeks later at the Circuit of the Americas. The series was in Austin, Texas, for its preseason media day Feb. 11, and for two days of testing on the 3.4 mile road course that was built for Formula One and has been hosting that series’ U.S. Grand Prix since 2012.

The contract with NTT settles the title sponsorship after two years of trying to replace Verizon, which pulled out after a five-year partnership. The new broadcast rights deal moves the crown jewel of the season, the Indianapolis 500, away from ABC for the first time in 53 years and puts the entire series on one network with a promise of more consistent and broader exposure.

The new deal puts eight races on NBC and the other nine on its cable sports network, NBCSN.

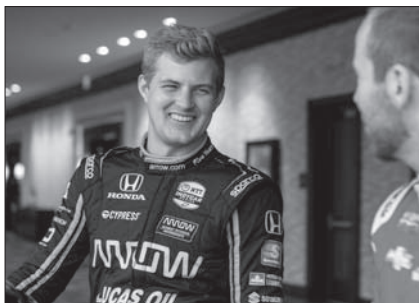
“I was climbing the ladder when this thing was falling apart,” said 2012 champion Ryan Hunter-Reay of Andretti Autosport. “[Now] there’s so much momentum in this sport: the class of competition, the caliber of teams, the support of sponsors. It’s pretty awesome to see this sport where it should be.”

The new race in Texas and the return to Laguna Seca in Monterey, Calif., for the season finale



MICHAEL CONROY/AP

Scott Dixon of New Zealand, front, is the defending IndyCar series champion. The series has a new sponsor in Japanese communications giant NTT and Firestone will continue to be its tire supplier.



STEPHEN SPILLMAN/AP

Sweden's Marcus Ericsson, left, moves over to IndyCar from Formula One and is eyeing his first start at the Indy 500.

gives IndyCar a taste for new fans and old. The Texas track had long coveted hosting IndyCar but had been frozen out by a geographic exclusivity clause the series had for years with Texas Motor Speedway in Fort Worth.

Circuit of the Americas President Bobby Epstein has vowed that his track will make a splashy debut for the March 24 race and has said he wants it to have the second-largest purse behind the Indianapolis 500, including a \$100,000 bonus if the pole winner also wins the race.

This year's Indianapolis 500 will be the 50th anniversary of Mario Andretti's sole victory there. And it will see former Formula One champion Fernando

Alonso return in his quest to claim auto racing's Triple Crown of winning the Monaco Grand Prix, the 24 Hours of Le Mans and the Indy 500. Alonso made a strong bid to win in 2017 before a late-race engine failure.

Andretti's son, Michael, failed to win in Indy, and grandson Marco Andretti said Friday a victory this year would be the perfect way to mark the anniversary. “I want to win any Indy 500, but if there was one to pick, it would be this one,” Marco Andretti said. “I would cry.”

IndyCar has a handful of drivers with Formula One experience and is adding more. Sweden's Marcus Ericsson, who lost his seat at his old F1 Sauber team,

joined Arrow Schmidt Peterson Motorsports. Ericsson is already eyeing his first start at the Indy 500.

“I spoke with Alonso about it. He said, ‘You will love it, it’s an amazing experience,’” Ericsson said.

Carlin's Max Chilton, who made the switch from F1 in 2015, predicted Ericsson will be fine on the road courses but will have to adjust to the ovals.

“It’s very daunting. F1 cornering speed is quicker. IndyCar (on ovals) is crazy fast and the walls are right there,” Chilton said. “He’ll be fine.”

Notes: Reigning Indy Lights



MICHAEL CONROY/AP

Tony Kanaan's lone victory in the Indianapolis 500 was in 2013.

Schedule

March 10 — Firestone Grand Prix of St. Petersburg (Fla.)
March 24 — IndyCar Classic, Austin, Texas
April 7 — Honda Indy Grand Prix of Alabama, Birmingham
April 14 — Grand Prix of Long Beach (Calif.)
May 11 — IndyCar Grand Prix, Indianapolis
May 26 — Indianapolis 500
June 1 — Chevrolet Detroit Grand Prix (Race 1), Belle Isle Park, Mich.
June 2 — Chevrolet Detroit Grand Prix (Race 2), Belle Isle Park, Mich.
June 23 — REV Group Grand Prix at Road America, Elkhart Lake, Wis.
July 14 — Honda Indy Toronto
July 20 — Iowa Corn 300, Newton
July 28 — Honda Indy 200 at Mid-Ohio, Lexington, Ohio
Aug. 18 — ABC Supply 500, Long Pond, Pa.
Aug. 24 — Bommarito Automotive Group 500, Madison, Ill.
Sept. 1 — Grand Prix of Portland (Ore.)
Sept. 2 — Firestone Grand Prix of Monterey, Salinas, Calif.

Associated Press

champion Patricio O'Ward of Mexico said he had left new team Harding-Steinbrener Racing and will be looking for a new seat for 2019. O'Ward didn't give a reason but said the team had agreed to let him out of his contract. Teammate Colton Herta said he didn't know why O'Ward left.

“The news came as a bit of shock to me. It's tough. We pushed each other,” Herta said. “He's a good driver. He'll find something else.”



DARRON CUMMINGS/AP

Marco Andretti is still searching for the Indy 500 title that has eluded his family since his grandfather, Mario, won it 50 years ago.

AUTO RACING/OLYMPICS

NASCAR rules changes get high marks

HAMPTON, Ga. — The verdict is still out on NASCAR's new competition package following its innocuous debut at Atlanta Motor Speedway.

The race was not the best in NASCAR history, nor was it unwatchable.

In the Pits



by JENNA FRYER • AP

to attract new fans and needed an overhaul.

The result was a package that reduced horsepower and increased downforce, efforts to bring the cars closer together and present more passing opportunities. What that actually meant on the track was a mystery before Sunday's race at Atlanta, won by Brad Keselowski following his brief bout with a stomach virus.

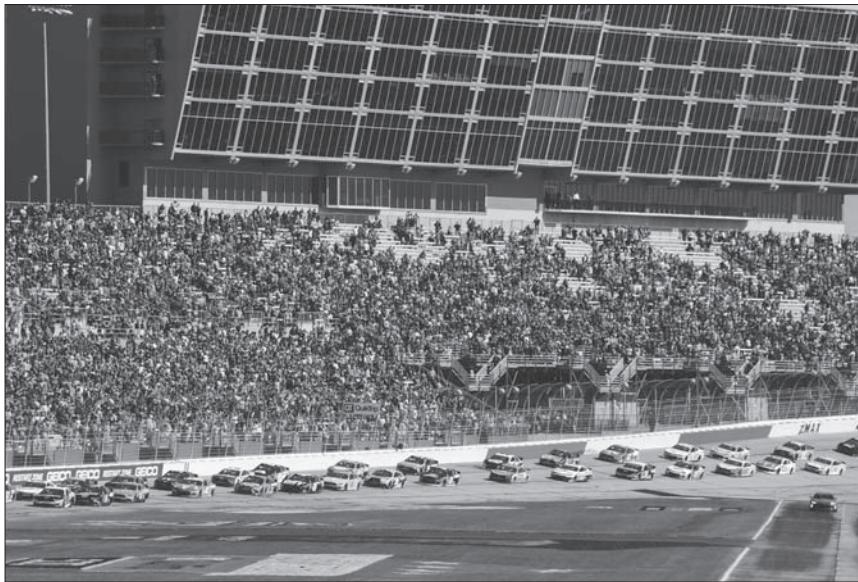
The trouble with the debut is that Atlanta is unlike any other intermediate track in NASCAR and the asphalt on the 1.54-mile quad-oval is the oldest in the series. The track is rough and bumpy, passing is always difficult and the racing is not likely to be replicated again this season.

So Atlanta was really just a sneak peek of what NASCAR hopes will dramatically improve over its upcoming three-week West Coast swing.

"I'd have to say a solid B. No one gets an A on their first exam, I don't think," winning team owner Roger Penske said.

From his vantage point high above the track on the spotter stand, Penske said, he twice watched Joey Logano pick his way through traffic to the front of the pack. He saw drivers using the preferred top lane slip to the bottom going into Turn 2 and stay there down the straightaway, and the cars generally just seemed under control.

"You didn't see any accidents, which maybe the fans like that, but I thought overall the package



SCOTT CUNNINGHAM/AP

A Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series race starts at Atlanta Motor Speedway on Sunday in Hampton, Ga.

showed well," Penske said. "It wasn't a crash-fest, which everybody said it was going to be potentially. It looks like there's a lot of equal cars running out there. It's going to come up to the drivers and the strategy, which is what we want."

The Atlanta race was better than it had been the last several years because the leader did not pull out to an enormous and uncatchable gap.

The 25 lead changes were more than the last three Atlanta races and Martin Truex Jr. was in a legitimate chase for the lead in the closing laps. Truex lost to Keselowski by 0.21 of a second, but even

Keselowski admitted he wouldn't have been able to hold off Truex if the race had been any longer.

Restarts bunched the field and led to drivers fanning out three- and four-wide as they jockeyed for position. Eventually they ended up in a single-file line, as is the norm at Atlanta and many other intermediate tracks, but Kyle Larson and Kevin Harvick managed to trade the lead several times in a spirited battle at the midway point of the race.

NASCAR was pleased with Sunday's show. Chief racing development officer Steve O'Donnell declared it a "fairly entertaining race."

But everyone understood that this weekend's race at Las Vegas will be a closer indicator of how the racing will be this year.

"When you looked at this race going in, I think for us, this was the biggest question mark as to how it would play out," O'Donnell said. "Ultimately, we wanted cars to run closer together, we wanted a battle to play out for the lead at times, which we saw during the race. Some things certainly to work on, but ultimately I think it was the direction where we wanted to go."

NASCAR will use a complete version of the rules package in Las Vegas, where featured aero

ducts will likely encourage drafting. It could make Las Vegas look a bit like the crash-filled Daytona 500, where pack racing leads to spectacular multi-car accidents that always change the dynamic of a race.

Teams won't have a clear idea for weeks on how to attack this rules package because the next three races are at wildly different venues that present their own challenges. Drivers are adapting to different handling and lower horsepower while crew chiefs are tinkering with setups.

NASCAR remains optimistic the fans will be the ultimate winners.

Organizers ban smoking, vaping at Tokyo Games

BY STEPHEN WADE
Associated Press

TOKYO — Tokyo is still a smoker's heaven.

Despite tougher laws enacted last year, smokers can light up in some restaurants and bars. Tobacco advertising is allowed on television, cigarette packages don't contain graphic health warnings, and tobacco is cheap compared to other major cities.

However, don't expect to puff away at next year's Tokyo Olympics.

Organizers on Thursday announced a stringent ban on all tobacco products and vaping devices. Smoking will be banned at all indoor and outdoor Olympic and Para-

lympic venues, plus within all perimeter areas of the Tokyo Games.

Organizers say the prohibition is tougher than regulations for the last two Summer Olympics in London and Rio de Janeiro.

"Tokyo 2020 aims to leave a legacy of improved health for the country at large," organizers said in a statement.

Japan's national legislature last year approved a ban on smoking inside public facilities, but the measure was seen as weak and excluded many bars and restaurants.

Tokyo's city government separately enacted tougher rules last year to protect from second-hand smoke. All provisions kick in during the run-up to the Olympics.

Smoking is still allowed in small eateries

and bars. They make up half of Japanese establishments, where it's common to see a customer eating with chopsticks in one hand and a cigarette in the other.

"Countering passive smoking has long been a concern," Keiko Nakayama, a Tokyo city government health official, said in a statement to The Associated Press. "We would like to push for approving more anti-smoking measures so people stay healthy longer."

The city's smoking policy will be reviewed in five years. But more regulation will always face tough opposition despite the fact that smoking has declined in recent years.

The Japanese government has a large

stake in tobacco. It owns a third of the stock and is the top investor in major cigarette company Japan Tobacco Inc. The industry was a government monopoly until 1985, and is a huge source of tax revenue.

Smoking is cheap in Japan compared to other developed countries. A pack of Marlboro cigarettes costs about \$5. In London and New York it's about \$14, and in Sydney it's \$20.

According to World Health Organization data for 2015, 32.7 percent of Japanese males smoke, compared to 24.4 in the United States. The highest figures were East Timor (78.0) and Indonesia (74.9), and the lowest two were in Africa: Ethiopia (7.6) and Ghana (7.1).

MLB



CARLOS OSORIO/AP

Chicago Cubs manager Joe Maddon visits the mound during the second inning of a spring training game against the Texas Rangers, in Mesa, Ariz. last week.

Managing: Despite age, 65-year-old Maddon known for his ability to relate to young players

FROM BACK PAGE

propensity to be inclined to utilize technology, which is wonderful because I've done that anyway, and then, they as a group like wanting to know why."

Millennials make up the vast majority of the majors today, and their influence is felt all over the sport.

They were the earliest adopters of advanced statistics that have become commonplace throughout baseball, and they inform much of what they do on the mound or at the plate. They want to know the reasoning behind what their coaches want them to do.

"I've learned this generation is nothing like the generation I grew up in," Royals manager Ned Yost said. "Nothing like it. You have to learn and have an open mind to find out what makes these kids tick, how they grew up. They're so diverse and their way of communicating is different in Southern California, kids in the South, kids in the East. It's just taking the time to get to know them and how to communicate."

The millennial generation became a hot topic in Chicago when the Cubs fired hitting coach Chili Davis after they struggled to score in the final few days of last season, culminating in their 2-1, 13-inning loss to Colorado in the NL Wild Card Game.

Davis told the Chicago Sun-Times that he needed to make some adjustments to how he delivers his message to millennials, and he planned to know more about his potential players before he accepted another job. He was hired as hitting coach for the New York Mets in December.

"You learn from every place you go," Davis said during spring

Did you know

Millennials were born between 1979 and 1996, and centennials — the next major generation for baseball — began in 1997 and ended between four and eight years ago.

SOURCE: Associated Press

training. "You know, there's a lot of different personalities to try to connect with. And sometimes you connect with most of them, you hope you connect with all of 'em — that's a rarity. But you know, I had great kids in Boston. I thought I had some really good kids over in Chicago last year and I'm really enjoying the guys I'm around this year."

Defining a generation "is an art and a science," said Kate Turkan, who is the head of youth insights for Kantar Consulting. Turkan said millennials were born between 1979 and 1996, and centennials — the next major generation for baseball — began in 1997 and ended between four and eight years ago.

Turkan, who has worked with universities and companies like Samsung, Coca-Cola and Target, said the millennial stereotype of entitled young person is misguided.

"They're not asking why to be

difficult. They're asking why because they've grown up in a generation or in a world where you need proof for everything, you need backup," she said.

"They're taught critical thinking skills ... they've been taught you don't take anything at face value and I think even coming from someone who's experienced, like a coach or like a manager, it's not that they're doubting, but it is that they've always been taught like you don't just take anything. You ask why. ... You want to get right to the root of the issue."

Maddon, who turned 65 on Feb. 8, is the oldest manager in baseball, followed by Kansas City manager Ned Yost, 64, and San Francisco skipper Bruce Bochy, 63. Maddon is nearly 30 years older than Rocco Baldelli, who became the game's youngest manager when he was hired by Minnesota in October.

Despite his age, Maddon has been known for his ability to relate to players. The Cubs declined to offer him an extension after the tough finish last year, so Maddon's ability to get the most of the younger millennials on his roster could help determine his future.

That's just fine with Maddon, who thinks his style works nicely for baseball's most important generation at the moment.

"Quite frankly, when I started doing this in the mid-80s, I thought it was important to tell my players why," Maddon said. "You want to know why, I don't feel offended. I think sometimes it's, when people ask you why there's a defensive component to that that some people don't like. I don't mind it. So when they ask me that, why, I should be prepared to tell them why."

Players, management appear to be headed for early labor negotiations

By RONALD BLUM
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Baseball players and management appear headed to early labor negotiations that could lead to significant economic changes in the collective bargaining agreement and possibly a new deal past the current expiration of December 2021.

Management backed off its desire for a pitch clock this year in a proposal to the players' association on Tuesday, putting off most on-field changes to 2020 at the earliest. The union quickly made a counteroffer Wednesday, and the biggest alterations still being discussed for this year are a single trade deadline, most likely on July 31, and lowering the number of mound visits without a pitching change from six to five.

While players have proposed major initiatives that impact economics, such as expanding the designated hitter to the National League and adding provisions that make rebuilding rosters with young players less attractive, management has been focused on on-field issues thus far. Management told the union it would be willing to discuss larger economic issues as part of talks that could lead to a longer labor contract.

Details were disclosed to The Associated Press by people familiar with the negotiations who spoke on condition of anonymity because talks were ongoing. Many aspects of management's latest proposal were first reported

by ESPN.

Among the items put off until 2020 at the earliest are several where an agreement could be reached soon:

■ A three-batter minimum for pitchers.

■ Increasing active rosters from 25 to 26, including a maximum of 13 pitchers, and dropping them from 40 to 28, including a maximum 14 pitchers, from Sept. 1 through the end of the regular season.

■ Increasing the minimum regular injured list and option recall period for pitchers from 10 days to 15.

■ A new rule that position players could pitch only from the ninth inning on, or from the sixth inning on when their team trails by seven runs or more.

The sides remain in discussion over starting extra innings of the All-Star Game and of spring training games with a runner on second base and ending spring training games after 10 innings. They also are discussing experimenting with shorter between-inning breaks combined with televising the start of innings on split-screens alongside commercials.

A single trade deadline would replace the current rules, which have a July 31 deadline for trades without waivers and an Aug. 31 deadline to acquire players who would be eligible for that team's postseason rosters.

While unilaterally making the decision to experiment with a 20-second pitch clock during spring training this year, management has offered not to pursue a pitch clock in the regular season through 2021. Management has the right to implement a clock in games that count, but baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred has said he is reluctant to take that step without players' agreement.



Clark



NATE HARRIN/AP

Major League Baseball commissioner Rob Manfred speaks during a news conference in Omaha, Neb. Management backed off its desire for a pitch clock this year, despite having the right to implement it in games that count. Manfred has said he is reluctant to take that step without players' agreement.

MLB



DARRON CUMMINGS/AP

Los Angeles Dodgers' A.J. Pollock signs autographs before a spring training baseball game against the Los Angeles Angels on Sunday; the outfielder played the past 10 seasons with the Diamondbacks.

Pollock's adjustment

Longtime Diamondback adapting to life as a Dodger

By THERESA SMITH
Associated Press

GLENDAL, Ariz. — Hanging out in shallow left field with alpha teammate Justin Turner, young star Corey Seager and manager Dave Roberts, the assimilation of Los Angeles Dodgers newcomer A.J. Pollock continued Wednesday morning.

Amid Turner's easygoing banter and Roberts' warmth and wisdom, Pollock is increasingly comfortable in Dodger Blue after spending the past 10 seasons with the Arizona Diamondbacks, the only organization he'd ever known.

"It was weird in the beginning, just kind of getting used to it," Pollock said. "Yeah, this is the team I was playing against for so many years, and now I am a part of their team and meeting some of the guys I've played against for so long."

"Now, it is starting to get a little more familiar and normal, and I am excited. This is a great team. They've been to the World Series two years in a row

and it is something I am really excited to be a part of," he said.

The Dodgers signed Pollock on Jan. 24 to a five-year, \$60 million contract, gambling the outfielder's frequent injury woes are behind him. The nature of the setbacks — primarily non-soft tissue — inspires optimism, along with the way the 31-year-old Pollock takes care of himself.

After hitting a career-high .315 with 20 home runs, 76 RBIs and 39 stolen bases in 2015, Pollock sustained a broken elbow, which cost him all but 12 games in 2016.

In 2017, a groin strain limited him to 112 games. And in 2018, a broken thumb held him to 113 games, in which he hit .257 with 21 homers, 65 RBIs and 13 stolen bases.

"I know there's been some injuries in the past," Pollock said. "I feel like a lot of them were kind of impact and fractures and bone stuff. I don't know that I could control too much."

Commentary

Dodgers must keep Harper from Giants

By BILL PLASCHE
Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES — Close the deal, Los Angeles Dodgers.

Bryce Harper is out there, waiting. A different October is dangling there, ready. A statement of championship boldness is sitting there, scripted.

The Dodgers need to blink hard, dig deep and end this game of chicken now by signing baseball's marquee free-agent outfielder so they can begin their third consecutive trip to the World Series and this time win the dang thing.

After several months of watching from the sidelines while they protected their pennies and settled for outfielder A.J. Pollock, the Dodgers jumped back into the Harper sweepstakes this week because they saw a chance to sign him on their terms.

Now that they're in the room, re-

cent events make it obvious that they need to walk out with him in a Dodgers uniform, because they must and because they can.

First, it's clear that Harper doesn't really want to play in Philadelphia.

The Phillies have, at times, reportedly been the only team willing to give him the 10-year deal he wants for the \$300 million-plus he's demanding, but he hasn't signed yet? Hello? If he really wanted to be there, he would have signed moments after Manny Machado broke the free-agent show by signing with the San Diego Padres.

Second, it's also become clear in recent days that the Dodgers can accelerate their long-term spending schedule because their potential top free-agent target next winter is no longer free.

Nolan Arenado, the Colorado Rockies third baseman and a Southern California kid who was thought to

be headed this way next season, re-signed with the Rockies for eight years and \$260 million.

Finally, the stakes became even higher Wednesday with the news that the San Francisco Giants are seriously involved. According to various reports, the Giants met Harper in his Las Vegas home for a second time Tuesday, and are discussing the sort of 10-year deal that the Dodgers reportedly will not give him.

OK, listen Dodgers, if you're really making a pitch for Bryce Harper, you can lose him to 28 other teams, but you cannot lose him to the Giants. You cannot get outspent by your rivals who have won three World Series championships in nine years while you have won zero in 30 years.

Dodger Stadium cannot lose to whatever the Giants are calling their cramped ballpark these days.

Giants' Samardzija has strong debut

By CARRIE MUSKAT
Associated Press

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — Jeff Samardzija kept a locker at Oracle Park in San Francisco this offseason and worked out at the ballpark three days a week. The Giants pitcher also spent two days per week rehabbing at a clinic in San Mateo, Calif.

The work paid off Wednesday in his first spring start, the next phase of his comeback from a disappointing 2018 season.

Making his first in-game appearance since July 14, Samardzija threw 32 pitches over two scoreless innings, giving up one hit and striking out one against the Royals at Scottsdale Stadium.

"I think everybody saw last year that I was hurt," said Samardzija, who was limited to 10 starts in 2018 because of soreness in his right shoulder. "For a lot of the year, I thought I could muscle through it. That's usually how I approach injuries, is ignore and move on. That had worked for me in the past, but that had been other parts of the body — obliques and hamstrings and quads."

"What I learned is you can pitch with all those feeling 50 percent, but that shoulder and that arm needs to be 95 to 100 percent to get done what you need to get done," he said. "Sometimes that stubborn approach just isn't the right way to go."

Samardzija, 34, started his offseason program Oct. 5 and began throwing at Thanksgiving.

"It's the new formula for me, which is staying ahead of the game and listening to yourself and listening to your body and your arm," Samardzija said. "If anything acts up, take care of it, right then and there. Last year was a learning process for me. We're starting to shape that for

'You could see that he was back and letting it go free and easy and used all his pitches.'

Bruce Bochy
Giants manager on Jeff Samardzija

me of what we need to do every day to stay ahead of the game."

On Wednesday, Samardzija threw 22 pitches to four batters in the first, with the stadium radar gun registering his fastball at 93-94 mph. He needed just 10 pitches to retire the side in order in the second, including a strikeout of Brett Phillips to end the inning.

Samardzija was more interested in the radar readings on his offspeed pitches to make sure there was enough difference between them and his fastball. He was pleased with those results.

"Absolutely," Samardzija said. "For me, it's important to have that pitch mix so you're not relying on the fastball velo all the time."

"It was good to see Jeff where he was," Giants manager Bruce Bochy said. "His command will just get better as he goes. You could see that he was back and letting it go free and easy and used all his pitches."

Notes: Catcher Buster Posey is on schedule to make his first spring appearance Friday. Posey is coming off offseason hip surgery and was expected to catch three innings. — Outfielder Steven Duggars (left shoulder) also was expected to make his first start on Friday. — Pablo Sandoval, sidelined because of soreness in his side, was not expected to play until the weekend, Bochy said.



NICK WASS/AP

Free agent Bryce Harper is being pursued mainly by three teams: the Dodgers, Phillies and Giants.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Accomplishing his goals

Spartans' Winston has become player of year candidate

By LARRY LAGE
Associated Press

CEAST LANSING, Mich. — Cassius Winston is a reflection of his parents and Michigan State is reaping the benefits.

The point guard plays and sounds like his soft-spoken father, Reg. The junior controls the tempo, speeding it up at times and taking it slow at others, while not saying much to anyone.

"I definitely got that from my dad," Winston said. "Cool, calm and collected."

He is driven for success like his mother, Wendi. He aims for accomplishments on annual lists — including being an All-America player and making it to the Final Four this year — and his mother holds him accountable.

"She has always made me write down my goals and chase them," Winston said.

Clearly, the combination of traits is working.

Winston has developed into a player of the year candidate, leading the sixth-ranked Spartans (23-5, 14-3 Big Ten) as they contend for a Big Ten title and perhaps a top seeding in the NCAA Tournament while two of their top players are injured. They are tied with No. 14 Purdue for first place entering their game at Indiana (14-14, 5-12) on Saturday.

Winston is the only Division I player, as of Wednesday, averaging at least 19 points and seven assists while connecting on 40-plus percent of three-point attempts. And, he's coming off perhaps his best performance. He scored 27 points and had eight assists to lead Michigan State to a 77-70 win over rival Michigan on the road.

"We've had a lot of point guards come into this building," Wolverines coach John Beilein said. "I've coached some great ones. That was as good a performance as you're going to see."

Winston was named the Big Ten player of the week after averaging 27 points, eight assists and 3.5 rebounds while making half of his three-point shots in wins over then-No. 7 Michigan and Rutgers. He has joined three players in conference history to earn the honor at least five times in a season, putting him in an elite class with Purdue's Glenn Robinson and Caleb Swanigan along with Ohio State's Evan Turner.

Just three other players in Michigan State history have scored 1,200 points and had 600 assists in a career: 2016 national player of the year Denzel Valentine, 2000 national champion Mateen Cleaves and 1986 Big Ten player of the year Scott Skiles.

"I never thought he could become what he is becoming," Michigan State coach Tom Izzo said. "And, I still think he still has



NATI HARNIK/AP

Michigan State's Cassius Winston, right, shoots against Nebraska's James Palmer Jr., left, and Isaac Copeland Jr. during the second half on Jan. 17 in Lincoln, Neb.

a big ceiling of where he can get. He has changed his body a lot."

The 6-foot-1, 185-pound Detroit native has reshaped his physique, making more mature decisions than he used to for snacks and meals.

"His pregame meal used to be Starburst and Hot Cheetos," his mother recalled.

After laughing, her son said that is partly true.

"In high school, I used to eat a pack of Starburst before every game," Winston said sheepishly. "Looking back, it was probably not the best idea. I didn't eat Hot Cheetos before every game, but I loved them and ate them a lot."

"I made a big transformation when I got here."

He has substituted pasta and

salad for his pregame meal these days, helping him properly fuel up to play all 40 minutes of a game, as he did against the Wolverines.

Winston has never been the tallest, quickest or most athletic player on the court and yet that hasn't stymied him. He won Michigan's Mr. Basketball award in 2016 and led the University of Detroit Jesuit High School to a state championship. He has become a college star after being a role player in his first two seasons in college when former teammate and Charlotte Hornets rookie Miles Bridges led the way.

"He isn't tall and doesn't jump out of the gym, so he has had to learn angles, tricks of the trade and to be crafty," Reg Winston said. "He's learned how to score

with finger rolls, shots high off the glass and floaters. You don't have to be faster than everyone. You have to play at your own pace. It's sort of a blessing."

The Spartans were thankful he could do more than just make three-point shots against the Wolverines because he didn't make one shot beyond the arc. He was 7-for-13, making an assortment of shots mostly in and around the lane, 0-for-3 on three-pointers and 13-for-14 at the line while playing every minute against a defense stacked to stop him.

The performance may have pushed him one step closer to one of his goals, winning Big Ten player of the year honors.

It was one of the accomplishments he cited in a group text with his mother and father before the season started.

"He was required by a teacher in high school to write down the things he wanted to accomplish," Wendi Winston recalled. "That's what kind of started it and he has adopted that."

His mother, has something to do with that.

"Cassius is a kid who has always made a list of the things that he wants to accomplish and I've taken it upon myself to make sure we're working toward the lists," she said. "You can have a great game and that's awesome. But if our goal is to be player of the year, then we're going to celebrate for a minute then get back to work. I feel like our work is never done."

Games on AFN



No. 15 Kansas (21-7, 10-5) at Oklahoma State (10-18, 3-12)
AFN-Sports
6 p.m. Saturday CET
2 a.m. Sunday JKT



No. 5 Michigan State (23-5, 14-3) at Indiana (14-14, 5-12)
AFN-Sports2
6 p.m. Saturday CET
2 a.m. Sunday JKT



Pittsburgh (12-6, 2-13) at No. 2 Virginia (25-2, 13-2)
AFN-Sports2
8 p.m. Saturday CET
4 a.m. Sunday JKT



No. 4 Kentucky (24-4, 13-2) at No. 7 Tennessee (25-3, 13-2)
AFN-Sports
8 p.m. Saturday CET
4 a.m. Sunday JKT



UCF (21-6, 11-4) at No. 8 Houston (27-1, 14-1)
AFN-Atlantic
10 p.m. Saturday CET
6 a.m. Sunday JKT



No. 1 Gonzaga (27-2, 14-0) at Saint Mary's (19-10, 10-4)
AFN-Atlantic
4 a.m. Sunday CET
Noon Sunday JKT

By the numbers

19.2 **7.5** **4**

Average number of points per game scored this season by Michigan State junior point guard Cassius Winston.

Average number of assists per game this season by Winston, who has 632 for his career.

Number of players in Michigan State history who have scored at least 1,200 points and had 600 assists.

SOURCE: sports-reference.com

COLLEGE BASKETBALL/SOCCER

Tiny Wofford makes big leap into rankings

By PETE IACOBELLI
Associated Press

SPARTANBURG, S.C. — Little-bitty Wofford was a long shot to make a run into the Top 25. So the No. 24 Terriers embraced the challenge — literally.

Led by the three-point shooting of Fletcher Magee, the Terriers have won 15 straight and jumped into the national rankings for the first time in school history.

Magee, second all-time in NCAA made three-pointers after surpassing the likes of Stephen Curry and J.J. Redick, believes this is just a warm-up for what Wofford (24-4, 16-0 Southern Conference) is capable of achieving this season with March looming.

"I don't want to get caught up in what I'm doing individually," Magee said. "I just want to concentrate on what I can do to help us win."

'It's something I can look back at someday and be proud of. Right now, I'm focused on the present and on us continuing to play as well as we have.'

Fletcher Magee
Wofford guard

The Terriers have done plenty of that this season.

Their victories include an 81-61 beatdown at South Carolina in November. Their run of 15 in a row is second in the country behind the 18 straight won by No. 1 Gonzaga. Wofford and the Zags are the only remaining undefeated Division I conference leaders left in college basketball.

"We've got a pretty good thing going here," said Mike Young, in his

17th season.

The Terriers played for the first time as a ranked team Thursday night at Chattanooga (12-7, 7-9).

Success on the hardwood at Wofford starts with Magee. He's a 6-foot-4 senior from Orlando, Fla., who Young said was the best shooter in the Sunshine State coming out of First Academy school.

Magee hasn't disappointed. He has 47 career three-pointers, 27 short of the mark of 504 set by Oakland's Travis Bader from 2010-2014.

"I always felt I was able to score," he said.

Magee has consistently demonstrated that during his Wofford career, helping the mid-major program to upset top Power Five teams Georgia Tech, North Carolina and the Gamecocks the past two seasons.

He hit the game-winning three with less than two seconds left to beat the Yellow Jackets and made a go-head layup with less than two minutes left to shock the Tar Heels for Wofford's first-ever win over a ranked opponent in Division I.

But a 56-55 loss to top-seeded UNC Greensboro in the Southern Conference Tournament semis ended Wofford's season short of its goals.

After going through NBA evaluations last spring, Magee was certain he'd return for a final try at getting Wofford to its first NCAA Tournament.

"I knew pretty much I was coming back," Magee said. "We had things to accomplish."

Magee and Young swear Wofford is more than a one-man team. Forward Cameron Jackson, a senior, is second behind Magee in scoring with 14.4 points and leads the Terriers with 7.8 rebounds a game. Nathan Hoover, a junior guard, is also averaging in double-digit points and is second to Magee with 70 threes of his own. Hoover made nine three-pointers in the win over South Carolina.

Wofford is a private liberal arts college of fewer than 1,600 students, perhaps best known to NFL fans as summer home of the Carolina Panthers. But the Terriers have had a strong basketball presence this decade. Young leading them to four NCAA Tournaments during a six-season stretch from 2010-2015. Magee said he and his older teammates see the



ROQUELO V. SOLIS/AP

Wofford guard Fletcher Magee, left, attempts a three-point basket while Mississippi State guard Quindary Weatherspoon defends during a game in December. Wofford was a long shot to make a run to the Top 25. So, the No. 24 Terriers embraced that trek — literally. Led by the NCAA's second all-time three-point scorer in Magee, they have won 15 straight games, are undefeated in Southern Conference play and ranked for the first time in school history.

past banners and trophies and long for a piece of their own history.

"It's something we've wanted since I came here, playing in the NCAA Tournament," he said.

The Terriers have already clinched the No. 1 seed in the Southern Conference and are strong favorites to win the league's tournament — and gain its automatic bid to the NCAA's — next month. If Wofford stumbles, Young believes his team has an at-large résumé impressive enough to sway the most skeptical of NCAA selectors.

Wofford's only defeats this season have been to Power Five programs in North Carolina, Oklahoma, Kansas and Mississippi State. The Terriers are 19th in the NET rankings, ahead of expected NCAA teams in Kansas in 20th, then Maryland, Louisville, Auburn and Cincinnati.

"We've done what they asked us to do," Young said.

Magee, who leads Division I with 126 three-pointers this season, can't totally escape hearing about his record chase. Friends and classmates keep him updated on the tally. Redick, who Magee spoke to about basketball and life before the season began, sent him a congratulatory text after he moved past the Philadelphia 76ers sharpshooter into second on the college list. Those will be cherished memories for later on, Magee said.

"It's something I can look back at someday and be proud of," Magee said. "Right now, I'm focused on the present and on us continuing to play as well as we have."

Women's World Cup countdown begins

France marks 100 days until tourney kickoff

By ANNE M. PETERSON
Associated Press

The Women's World Cup countdown has begun in earnest.

Wednesday marked 100 days until kickoff for the game's biggest tournament, opening on June 7 in Paris. The 24-team event will be played at nine stadiums in France over the course of a month, with the final set for July 7 in Lyon.

The United States is the defending champion, having won the 2015 World Cup in Canada. The top-ranked Americans are also the presumptive favorites this time around.

So far, ticket sales have been strong, with more than 330,000 of an allotment of 1.3 million sold following the ticket package launch and the presale phase. Single-match tickets go on sale March 7.

According to FIFA, 57 percent of the sales have been in France, while 25 percent have been to fans in the United States.

There are a few lingering controversies hanging over the event, including prize money. Last October, the FIFA Council raised the prize money from \$15 million in 2015 to \$30 million in France. But by contrast, the prize pool for the men's World Cup in Russia last year was \$400 million.

In 2015, the U.S. women received \$2 million for raising the trophy, and the winner this summer will earn \$4 million. The French men who won the World Cup last summer earned \$38 million.

While the men's World Cup generates far more revenue, critics say FIFA should back up its pledges to grow the women's game with investment and incentives — like a sweeter prize pool.

"We need to try to find what is the most balanced way, and I think we made a step and there will be many more steps going ahead," FIFA President Gianni Infantino vowed when the increase was announced.

Another issue is timing. FIFA has been criticized for scheduling the Women's World Cup final on the same day as the men's Copa America final and the CONCACAF Gold Cup final.

Here are some other things to watch in the 100 days leading up to the World Cup.

Video watch: The next Women's World Cup milestone for FIFA is confirming the use of video review.

The prospect of VAR in France looked in doubt as FIFA prevaricated when asked if women's players would benefit from the same technology as debuted at the men's World Cup in Russia last year.

But FIFA confirmed its Women's World Cup referees were training with VAR last month. The FIFA Council has to ratify

the use of VAR at a meeting in Miami this month.

Last-minute changes: Australia shocked many with January's dismissal of coach Allen Stajcic, who had been coach of the Matildas since 2014 and still had nine months left on his contract.

The Australian federation said it fired Stajcic following an internal review and Ante Milcic was named to take over.

Tuning up: The 100-day mark also means teams are going all-in on preparation for the event. The United States is hosting the SheBelieves Cup with Japan, England and Brazil — all World Cup-bound teams — which started Wednesday. There's also the annual Algarve Cup in Portugal, which started Thursday and features Canada, Sweden, Spain and several other teams.

Australia is hosting the inaugural Cup of Nations, which will also include New Zealand, Argentina and South Korea, and started Thursday.

"We've got eight games left," U.S. coach Jill Ellis said Tuesday about the remaining schedule. "Every minute we can get the players together to forge those relationships is really important."

Ellis watched her team lose a chance to host a rival in the final minutes on Wednesday night. She did not, however, lose any confidence in the team.

Alex Morgan scored her 99th international goal, but Yuka Momiki responded with a stoppage-time equalizer and Japan tied the United States 2-2 in the SheBelieves Cup tuneup tournament for the World Cup. It was a rematch of the last two World Cup finals.

But there's far more urgency for teams that normally don't have many regular exhibition games. Chile and Jamaica, who will each make their World Cup debut in France, will play a pair of matches in Jamaica, with the first on Thursday in Kingston.

"Chile have played Brazil and Italy recently, therefore we'll get an opportunity to measure where we are as a team," Jamaica coach Heu Menzies told reporters last week. The Reggae Girls, ranked No. 53 in the world, are also expected to play a friendly against Panama.

Focus: U.S. goalkeeper Alyssa Naeher was on the champion 2015 squad, albeit as a backup to goalkeeper Hope Solo. Now the presumed starter in France, Naeher is tempering her excitement with focus on the work to be done.

"My mindset has kind of always been taking everything one game at a time," Naeher said Tuesday. "I mean, yes, it's exciting to start a countdown like that (the 100 days) and it kind of builds the excitement around the whole event. But for me it's kind of staying focused in the moment."

GOLF/SOCCER

On the fringe

Stricker clears air with player Reed

By DOUG FERGUSON

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY — Steve Stricker didn't wait for the official announcement to make his first move as Ryder Cup captain.

He called Patrick Reed. This was two days before a long Wednesday of news conferences, radio shows, everything short of a parade in his home state of Wisconsin, where in 2020 he will lead the American team at Whistling Straits in a bid to win back the Ryder Cup.

Still to be determined is whether Reed is part of the team.

That will depend largely on his performance over the next two years, not what happened five months ago in France.

Stricker was going through a media training session ahead of the Ryder Cup announcement when he realized Reed might be a popular topic, at least on the day he was introduced as captain. Instead of preparing the right message for the media, he picked up the phone.

"I figured I was going to get some questions about Patrick and all the stuff that transpired," Stricker said. "All I've seen is what was on social media, some of the golf outlets, things like that. I just wanted to hear from him, the truth from him. He explained himself, and how he thought he messed up at the Ryder Cup, and he wants to move forward. And that he's got everybody's back."

The "stuff" to which Stricker referred made a bad week at Le Golf National seem even worse.

Reed and Jordan Spieth had gone 4-1-2 as partners in the two previous Ryder Cups — 8-1-3 when the Presidents Cup is included. Spieth played this Ryder Cup with Justin Thomas, whom he knows as well as anyone, and they were a rare bright spot for the Americans by winning three of their four matches. Reed played with his idol, Tiger Woods, and they lost both their matches before seeing the 18th hole.

In the now-famous New York

Times interview a few hours after the matches were over, Reed blamed Spieth for them not playing together, said captain Jim Furyk was not smart to bench him for two matches and suggested Europe was better at putting team ahead of ego.

That was then.

Reed says he sent a text to "all the guys" immediately after the Ryder Cup and that everyone except the media has moved on.

Maybe so, but there were sure to be moments when it would be thought of again.

Including when the next Ryder Cup captain was appointed.

Stricker has a reputation as the nicest man in golf, quiet and respectful, steeped in Midwestern values. His father-in-law once described Stricker as treating an employee in the home improvement store with as much consideration as a corporate executive.

Stricker fought back tears when he was introduced as Ryder Cup captain, and no one was surprised. He does that all the time.

Just don't get the idea he's a sofie.

In three interviews last week, Stricker delivered a message of looking ahead instead of behind. That's important to him, and it's important to an American team that suffered a setback in its attempt to build a new model of success for the Ryder Cup.

He was savvy enough to know that any lingering feelings from France should be addressed by talking to a player whom Stricker considers more an asset than a liability.

"That was on my to-do list, to talk to him and see his side of things," Stricker said. Reed didn't want to reveal all they talked about, although they appear to be on the same page. It's all about moving forward.

"The only thing I shouldn't have done is talked to the media, but I felt like at the time it was the right thing to do," Reed said. "When I talked to him, I just said, 'Hey, man, I want to let you know we've all moved past it. We're a team.'"



DAVID J. PHILLIP/AP

United States Ryder Cup vice-captain Steve Stricker, left, holds a flag for Jordan Spieth and Patrick Reed during practice for the 2016 Ryder Cup. Stricker called Reed before he was named Ryder Cup captain to clear the air.



ADAM CAIRNS, COLUMBUS DISPATCH/AP

D.C. United forward Wayne Rooney, top, and Columbus Crew SC defender Milton Valenzuela collide in an MLS game last year. Rooney begins his first full season in MLS.

Rooney puts team on notice

By STEVEN GOFF

The Washington Post

It was only a preseason match, far from home and eight days before the real stuff begins in earnest. But to Wayne Rooney, and to his D.C. United teammates, the 3-0 defeat to Montreal last Saturday in St. Petersburg, Fla., was intolerable.

As team captain, as the face of an organization that will confront heightened expectations after last summer's renaissance, Rooney expressed his disappointment Tuesday during his first news conference in Washington since United broke camp in Florida.

Without being asked about the sour result, the English striker said: "We didn't play well at all, but also a bit of the fight in the team wasn't there, which we need. We need to fight in every game like we did toward the end of last season to get to where we want to be."

Beyond the captain's title, this is very much Rooney's team. He is United's quiet but pointed leader. So when he identifies an issue and speaks of it publicly, it means something.

Continuing his take on the setback, Rooney said "it was actually a good time for that to happen, just before the season starts. It's a wake-up call and a reminder that if we can to achieve good things this season, then we've got to make sure we've got that fight in every game."

United will need to get its act together in short order with MLS Cup champion Atlanta visiting at Audi Field in the season opener Sunday.

Rooney, 33, will begin his first full MLS season after arriving amid great fanfare in the middle of the 2018 campaign. His scoring touch, partnership with playmaker Luciano Acosta, experience and leadership helped lift United from last place to a playoff berth.

Asked what he has witnessed from Rooney in preseason, coach Ben Olsen said: "More of the

'We need to fight in every game like we did toward the end of last season to get to where we want to be.'

Wayne Rooney

DC United forward

same in that he is a really well-respected player on the field and in the dressing room. He continues to be about the right things.

"Leaders are hard to come by nowadays in the game of soccer. He is a very good one."

With his wife and four children settled in a rented home in Bethesda, Md., Rooney spent much of the offseason in Washington.

"I realized how cold it gets," he said with a smile. "A lot colder than back in England."

In general, "Life with children is like a lot of people who've got kids: You take them to school, pick them up and take them somewhere to play or take them home to do homework. It's quite boring, but that's our life and we enjoy it."

It was not all boring. In December, Rooney was arrested at Dulles Airport and fined \$25 for public intoxication after returning from a sponsorship assignment in Saudi Arabia. He had consumed three drinks and taken a sleeping pill, then opened a security door in the terminal.

He also has had to tolerate the English tabloids, who have breathlessly speculated about the state of his marriage and happiness in the United States.

After the whirlwind of a partial season last year, Rooney said he has gained greater appreciation for MLS, which remains far behind the quality of leagues with greater history and money but continues to make strides.

"The standard of play maybe took me by surprise a little bit with the amount of quality that is in the league," he said.

He cited Miguel Almiron, the

former Atlanta star who, in his second Premier League appearance with Newcastle over the weekend, "was the best player on the pitch, by a mile. That's great for this league, to have players going over [to Europe] and give fans maybe a different opinion of MLS."

Rooney, too, helped improve the league's perception by posting 12 goals and seven assists in 20 matches last year. Paris Saint-Germain's interest in teammate Acosta this winter also bolstered MLS's credentials. The proposed deal faltered, which, while disappointing to Acosta, "is good news for us," Rooney said. "We're happy he's still here. Again, he's going to be a big player for us."

Concerns about the failed move affecting Acosta's desire were put to rest right away, Rooney said.

With his Manchester United experiences as a point of reference, Rooney said: "Sometimes when things like this happen, you worry the player might be down and not give everything to the team, but he's been great in training and great around the players. His attitude has been great."

Olsen is eager to see Rooney and Acosta reconnect.

"The way they play together, it wasn't a coaching thing. They enjoyed playing with each other and they read each other very well. You see this throughout your coaching career or playing career — two guys who, just like that, they click. We've seen glimpses of that in the preseason, so far, and they'll continue to be a pretty dynamic duo in this league."

NFL/MMA

Elite DLs dominate this combine class

By ARNIE STAPLETON
Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — This year's class of quarterback prospects isn't as sexy as last year's group led by Baker Mayfield and Sam Darnold. Nor does it feature the tantalizing talents of next year's headliners: Tua Tagovailoa, Justin Herbert and Jake Fromm.

There are a few passers who merit first-round consideration, but what teams will see an abundance of at the NFL scouting combine this week are the players who will make their living chasing, corralling and clobbering quarterbacks.

"To me, it's all about big guys," NFL Network analyst Daniel Jeremiah said. "Premier talent and depth at the defensive line position, inside, outside, it's outstanding. And it carries deep into the draft."

It's not only the rush, but the push.

Defensive ends led by Ohio State's Nick Bosa and Clemson's Clelin Ferrell are prized pass rushers, but nowadays players such as Clemson D-tackles Christian Wilkins and Dexter Lawrence are just as highly valued for their interior pressure.

"I think we're getting to the point in this league where we've become such a pass-first league that you take those guys wherever you can get them," said Mike Mayock, who parlayed a 14-year run as the NFL Network's draft guru into the Oakland Raiders' general manager's job.

Mayock said he's spoken to just about every top quarterback in the NFL since 2004 and he's asked them all the same question: What bothers you the most?

"And almost every top-flight quarterback says, 'immediate pressure up the middle.'" Mayock said. "It disturbs sight lines, forces you to readjust your feet. So, I think we're at the point now where people are throwing the ball so much that you've got to find a way to affect it regardless."



ELISE AMENDOLA/AP

Clemson defensive tackle Dexter Lawrence, right, is part of a deep group of elite defensive linemen at the NFL combine.

Did you know

More than 300 prospects are expected to be at the NFL combine, and the workouts run Friday through Monday.

SOURCE: NFL.com

Broncos new coach Vic Fangio concurred, saying it's no longer enough to have two great pass rushers such as Denver's duo of Von Miller and Bradley Chubb. "You want four guys that the quarterback can feel caving in on him," Fangio said. "And that's critical in the pass rush. And that's an area that we need to improve in."

Despite the down year for QBs, there's still plenty of intrigue at the position thanks to Kyler Murray, who followed Mayfield from the state of Texas to Oklahoma and won the Heisman Trophy like Mayfield did.

"He's a guy that, once again, people are going to say is small and too short, but the kid knows how to win," Mayfield said. "When it comes down to it, that's the most important thing."

After committing to football over baseball, the biggest questions surrounding Murray this week aren't about ability — "Kyler can make every single throw," Jeremiah insisted — but his height and weight.

So his weigh-in Thursday will garner as much interest as anything else this week.

Is he really under 5-foot-10? Has he really bulked up to 206? Murray, Dwayne Haskins, Drew Lock, Daniel Jones and Ryan Finley all project as a solution to somebody's quarterback quandary despite the relative weakness of this year's QB class.



JOHN LOCHER/AP

Demetrious Johnson, right, is one of a slew of American mixed martial arts fighters that One Championship has recently signed. One Championship ventures into UFC territory this week in an attempt to raise the U.S. profile of the Singapore-based mixed martial arts promotion.

One step beyond for MMA

Asia's One Championship visits LA, considers global future

By GREG BEACHAM
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Rich Franklin joined One Championship as a vice president nearly five years ago, and the former UFC champion has enjoyed the ride during the Singapore-based mixed martial arts promotion's rapid growth across Asia.

After signing several American fighters and inking a new broadcast deal with Turner Sports' B/R Live in the past few months, One's ambitions are becoming global.

While the promotion hasn't scheduled any events in the U.S. or Canada just yet, Franklin wants North American fans to keep their eyes on a company with a fresh approach to this inherently combative sport.

"We've got a different product than a lot of fans are used to in this part of the world," said Franklin, a former math teacher from Cincinnati. "This promotion really stands for the values of compassion, discipline, respect, honor — all the things that my dad wanted me to learn when he put me in karate."

One is traveling the U.S. West Coast this week, staging its first North American public appearances on turf long dominated by the UFC and Bellator. Franklin and Miesha Tate — another former UFC champion now working for One as an executive — watched Tuesday while Demetrious Johnson, Eddie Alvarez and Sage Northcutt threw punches and did backflips for a loud contingent of hard-core MMA fans enticed by free T-shirts and the chance to meet three well-known stars who left the UFC last year.

It's tough to fully demonstrate One's unique qualities in a brief open workout in a gym near the

'I believe 2020 will be a good year for us to make some noise on this side of the world.'

Rich Franklin
One Championship vice president and former UFC champion

Los Angeles River's famed concrete basin, but One's shows are available online to any North American fan — and they could be even closer in the near future.

One doesn't plan to schedule an MMA show in the U.S. this year, and Franklin promised nothing — but he won't be surprised if One takes a leap across the Pacific soon.

"I believe 2020 will be a good year for us to make some noise on this side of the world," Franklin said.

One Championship is making stops this week in Seattle, Los Angeles and Las Vegas, where it was Thursday — just two days ahead of UFC 235 on the Strip.

One believes it stands out with a version of MMA less concerned with championships and trash talk than athletic inspiration and gracious behavior.

Those principles appealed to Johnson and Alvarez, two recent UFC belt-holders who eagerly agreed to join One last year. "I think we're doing something great that's going to threaten the North American market eventually," Alvarez said.

Alvarez, who lost his UFC belt to Conor McGregor in 2016, has already fought around the world for several promotions. The Philadelphia-based fighter said he had grown tired of "all the circus acts happening" in the UFC, from professional wrestlers getting prime

promotional slots to the combative pre-fight posturing mastered by McGregor and others.

"There's a lot of people who want a sport with integrity," Alvarez said. "We have a want for honesty, and that's gone missing. I can get a title shot here, and how many followers I have on Twitter and Instagram doesn't matter. I don't have to be a WWF wrestler. I can just be good at fighting. Imagine how good that feels to all the good fighters out there."

Johnson was the UFC's long-reigning flyweight champion before losing a decision to Henry Cejudo last summer. The 5-foot-3 fighter known as "Mighty Mouse" embraced the chance to have a new adventure, starting with his debut March 31 in Tokyo.

"I knew this was a company that I had a lot in common with, and I couldn't pass it up," Johnson said. "Also, I love to travel and see new things, and this is a chance to do that."

The 22-year-old Northcutt is one of the most high-profile prospects in MMA, going 6-2 in the UFC before it declined to renew his contract. He moved to One, where he can also compete in kickboxing and muay thai as he attempts to become a multidisciplinary champion.

"I just love everything about it," Northcutt said. "And I really think all of the fans are going to love it, too."

SPORTS



Top 25 Terriers

Tiny Wofford has taken big leap into national rankings » **Page 61**

MLB

MANAGING

Millennials



Coaching staffs adjust to get the most out of current generation of players

By JAY COHEN
Associated Press

MESA, Ariz.

In the aftermath of Chicago's collapse last season, Cubs manager Joe Maddon went looking for a deeper understanding of the players who dominate today's major leagues.

Maddon's search took him to "Managing Millennials for Dummies," and the book reinforced what he already felt about the people he worked with every day.

"The big takeaway is that they're no different

'The big takeaway is that they're no different than anybody else.'

Joe Maddon
Chicago Cubs manager

than anybody else," a chuckling Maddon said. "When you break it down and you go back to your own childhood we all had inefficiencies as young people. The biggest takeaway I think are two things; that the

SEE MANAGING ON PAGE 58

For major league coaches like Chicago Cubs manager Joe Maddon, left, and New York Mets hitting coach Chili Davis, above, understanding the young players who dominate today's rosters is essential to being an effective teacher.

MORRY GASH/AP



Inside: Significant economic changes could be ahead as players, management prepare for labor negotiations, Page 58

One Championship ponders global future » MMA, Page 63



027664 520705